

## Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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<b>Act Number:</b> 287	2005
<b>Bill Number:</b> 96	
<b>Senate Pages:</b> Senate: 3782-3798, 5422-5431	27
<b>House Pages:</b> House: 9858-9908	51
<b>Committee:</b> GAE: 814-816, 837-838, 884, 886, 894-899, 905-909, 990-995, 1010-1015, 1036-1039	34

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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS  
2005

VOL. 48  
PART 12  
3587-3885

jac  
Senate

June 2, 2005

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 15.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Majority Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. If that item might be marked Passed, retaining its place on the Calendar, that is Calendar 15, Calendar 203.

THE CHAIR:

So noted. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Page 16, Calendar 214, File 226 and 757, Substitute for S.B. 96, An Act Concerning Government Administration, Favorable Report of the Committees on Government Administration and Elections, Judiciary, Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, and Planning and Development.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

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

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THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this bill is composed of a number of unrelated general government and administrative actions proposed by Governor Rell, the Attorney General, the Comptroller, and individual Legislators.

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of LCO 7341. I ask that the amendment be called and I be given permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 7341, which will be designated as Senate Amendment Schedule "A". It is offered by Senator DeFronzo of the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move adoption of the amendment.

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THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark? Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this amendment actually becomes the bill. It is comprised of approximately 53 sections. Provisions include a validation of a referendum in Enfield, a series of administrative realignments affecting small, small agencies in state government, the correction of obsolete statutory references affecting VAS and the Department of Public Works.

Provisions conforming the awarding of certain grants to the core Connecticut computer system, establishing reciprocity for the state licensing of CPAs, strengthen whistleblower provisions in the Attorney General's Office.

Importantly, Mr. President, the latter half of the bill, Section 31 through 46, incorporate another large component of Governor Rell's ethics proposals. And some of these include a new code of ethics for those seeking to be prequalified as state contractors.

These include prohibitions on solicitation of improper information, meritless change orders, false

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claims, circumvention of competitive bidding, a ban on consultants working for the state in developing specifications and then serving as a consultant to a bidding contractor, and a number of other proposals, Mr. President.

The amendment also contains a couple of provisions not in the original bill, which I just want to identify for the Members of the Senate.

Section 52 is an affidavit proposal submitted by Governor Rell requiring state agencies to obtain from contractors an affidavit identifying consultants who will be working for them, and the affidavit will require certain identifiers, name, address, name of the consulting firm, and work to be done, and compensation.

In Section 53 of the bill, Mr. President, a proposal which you, in fact, submitted to us concerning a prohibition on former public officials and public employees convicted of a felony involved in corrupt practices from seeking or accepting employment as a lobbyist in the State of Connecticut.

Mr. President, I would urge adoption of the amendment.

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THE CHAIR:

On the amendment, will you remark? Senator Cook.

SEN. COOK:

Thank you, Mr. President. I won't be long because it is getting to be a later hour than we wanted, but I rise in support, in particular of Sections 24 and 25.

And I want to thank Senator DeFronzo for working so closely with me and a couple of groups to set the stage for what we believe will be a national landmark set aside kind of program, where we are assisting both people with disabilities and people who are disadvantaged in the ability to achieve success in state contracts.

And so I, as some of the veterans here will recall the rather difficult debate we had last year about that, this is the next step forward, and the creation of the disabled and disadvantaged employment security policy group that is noted in Section 25 will craft what we believe will be something to be an example for the whole nation.

And I want to particular thank Senator DeFronzo for assisting and making that possible.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?

Senator DeFronzo, second time.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

I'm sorry, Mr. President. I just wanted to thank Senator Cook for her input on the, on the bill and, again, maybe move to an expeditious adoption of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator Prague.

SEN. PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the Clerk has in his possession LCO--

THE CHAIR:

We're on an amendment, Senator. Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor, please say "aye".

SENATE ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

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Any opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The  
amendment is adopted. Will you remark further?

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I have  
another amendment, clean up amendment, LCO 7451. I  
would ask that the Clerk call the amendment and I be  
given permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 7451, which will be designated as Senate  
Amendment Schedule "B". It's offered by Senator  
DeFronzo of the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move adoption of the  
amendment.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark? Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

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Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this amendment is a clean up of some language in Section 36, clarifying who should be making reports concerning potential ethics violations in state agencies, clarified the technical error later in that section, and deletes the section dealing with a study of the CRRA, in so doing, removes the fiscal note for that, for that item.

And, Mr. President, I would move acceptance of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption of the amendment, will you remark further? If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor, please say "aye".

SENATE ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Senator, Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I beg your indulgence, Senator Roraback. I just wanted to take a moment to

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recognize Senator Prague, if I can yield the floor to  
Senator Prague for an amendment?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SEN. PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the  
Clerk has in his possession LCO 7359. Would he please  
call the amendment and I be allowed to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 7359, which will be designated as Senate  
Amendment Schedule "C". It is offered by Senator  
Prague of the 19<sup>th</sup> District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SEN. PRAGUE:

I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark? Senator Prague.

SEN. PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, what  
this amendment does is to reduce the training time for

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affirmative action officers from ten hours a year to ten hours for the first year, and then five hours for each year after that.

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women offer these training sessions to affirmative action officers in order to make sure that they understand what's involved in affirmative action.

Up until now, it's been ten hours a year, and the groups have found that that's not necessary. The ten hours the first year and then five hours every year after that would be sufficient. So I move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

On the amendment, will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment? Senator McDonald.

SEN. MCDONALD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, Members of the Chamber may recall that this was an amendment to another bill that, when it reached its destination in the House, was deemed not to be germane to that bill.

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And in the original one that went down to the House, it was ten hours in the first year and three hours in subsequent years. However, this one now says that it's ten hours in the first year and five hours in subsequent years. So perhaps that will be more to the liking of the House.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, we'll try your minds. All those in favor, please say "aye".

SENATE ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Will your remark further on the bill as amended? Senator Roraback.

SEN. RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President. As smoothly as that amendment went, I hope this one goes even more smoothly. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 7422. If the Clerk would please call the amendment and if I might be permitted to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 7422, which will be designated as Senate  
Amendment Schedule "D". It is offered by Senator  
Roraback of the 30<sup>th</sup> District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SEN. RORABACK:

I move adoption, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark? Senator Roraback.

SEN. RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President. I think all of us in  
this Circle have a renewed appreciation of the  
importance of open government, and certainly this bill  
goes a long way towards accomplishing those  
objectives.

Mr. President, it came as a shock to me to learn  
that the State of Connecticut and certain of its  
unions have the capacity to contract out of compliance  
with our Freedom of Information laws.

Mr. President, what this amendment will do is to  
make sure that everyone plays by the same rules in

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terms of having their deliberations open to the public.

Mr. President, this amendment merely states that when the state and one of its employees go to arbitration, pursuant to a grievance procedure, that that arbitration proceeding will be open to the public in the same way that a court proceeding would.

And this amendment, Mr. President, arises from a situation where a state employee was having a grievance arbitrated, and both the state and the employee wished to have that arbitration open to the public and to the press, and yet a contract governing the parties precluded that from being available to the public, to the press, and this amendment will make that process open and accessible, and I urge support.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

On the amendment, will you remark further?

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I understand the goal of the amendment and Senator

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Roraback's consistent dedication to expanding the FOI coverage in our law.

However, I think this, this amendment intrudes into the arena of collective bargaining and would effectively deprive bargaining agents of their right they currently have to negotiate such areas of confidentiality.

And therefore, Mr. President, I would oppose the amendment and ask the Senate to defeat it. And I would ask that when the vote is taken, it be taken by roll call.

THE CHAIR:

Roll call will be ordered at the time of the vote. Will you remark further on the amendment? Remark further on the amendment? If not, the Clerk will announce the pendency of a roll call vote on the amendment.

THE CLERK:

An immediate--

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey. Senator Gaffey is recognized before the announcement of the roll call vote.

SEN. GAFFEY:

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Thank you, Mr. President. I do apologize, but I must recuse on this matter pursuant to Rule 15.

THE CHAIR:

Record will so note. Clerk will now announce the pendency of a roll call vote. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

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

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

THE CHAIR:

If all Members have voted, the machine will be closed. Clerk will please announce the result.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "D".

Total number voting, 34; necessary for adoption 18. Those voting "yea", 9; those voting "nay", 25. Those absent and not voting, 2.

THE CHAIR:

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The amendment is defeated. Will you remark  
further on the bill as amended? Will you remark  
further? Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Mr. President, if there's no objection, I'd ask  
that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no object--

SEN. DEFRONZO:

Oh, I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cappiello, I understand there is  
objection. Clerk will announce the pendency of a roll  
call vote.

THE CLERK:

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

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

THE CHAIR:

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If all Members have voted, if all Members have voted, the machine will be closed. Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of S.B. 96 as amended.

Total number voting, 34; necessary for adoption 18. Those voting "yea", 34; those voting "nay", 0.

Those absent and not voting, 2.

THE CHAIR:

Bill is passed. Will you remark further? Mr. Majority Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I have another item to add to our Consent Calendar. And that was the last item that was marked Go for this evening, Calendar Page 26, Calendar 554, S.B. 677. And due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. President, would call for a vote on the Consent Calendar at this time, and I think we will wrap up the evening's business on that note.

THE CHAIR:

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CONNECTICUT  
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5208-5542

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Senate

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(2) BUSINESS FROM THE HOUSE

(A) DISAGREEING ACTION(S) - to be tabled for the  
Calendar.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SUBST. SB NO. 96 AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION. (As amended by Senate Amendment  
Schedules "A" (LCO 7341), "B" (LCO 7541), "C"  
(LCO 7359))

6/2 Senate Adopted Senate "A", "B", "C"

6/8 House Adopted Senate "A", "B", "C"

6/8 House Adopted House "B"

End of Senate Agenda #6

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I  
would move for a suspension to take up an item on  
Senate Agenda No. 6, Substitute S.B. 96.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

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SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I would  
move that on Senate Agenda No. 6, under Business From  
the House, Substitute for S.B. 96, An Act Concerning  
Government Administration, be placed on the Consent  
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Hearing no objection to the motion to place  
Substitute H.B. 6906, appearing on Senate Agenda No. 3  
on Consent, sorry. What did I say? Senate Number,  
I'm sorry, you're right. Senate Agenda No. 6, so  
ordered.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Would call for a  
vote on the next Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you read the item on the Consent  
Calendar?

THE CLERK:

Mr. President, there are two items on Consent  
Calendar No. 6. The first item is on Calendar Page  
13, Calendar 415, S.B. 1138, and Agenda No. 6,  
Substitute for S.B. 96.

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Mr. President, that completes those two items that were placed on the fifth Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you announce, would you announce the pendency of a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar?

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been called for in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

An immediate roll call has been called for in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber for a roll call voice vote.

THE CHAIR:

Again, we are about to take another roll call vote. Any Senator wishing to be recorded, please be in or at their seat. Mr. Clerk, would you begin the roll call?

THE CLERK:

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The motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar No.

5. Senator Fonfara.

SEN. FONFARA:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Coleman.

SEN. COLEMAN:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator LeBeau.

SEN. LEBEAU:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Handley.

SEN. HANDLEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Harris.

SEN. HARRIS:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator DeFronzo.

SEN. DEFRONZO:

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Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Kissel.

SEN. KISSEL:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Herlihy.

SEN. HERLIHY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Ciotto.

SEN. CIOTTO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Harp.

SEN. HARP:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Looney.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Meyer. Senator Meyer. Senator Gaffey.

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SEN. GAFFEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Slossberg.

SEN. SLOSSBERG:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Hartley.

SEN. HARTLEY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Murphy.

SEN. MURPHY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Crisco.

SEN. CRISCO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Well, Cook.

SEN. COOK:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

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Senator Prague.

SEN. PRAGUE:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Stillman.

SEN. STILLMAN:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Gunther.

SEN. GUNTHER:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Finch.

SEN. FINCH:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Newton.

SEN. NEWTON:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Cappiello.

SEN. CAPPIELLO:

Yes.

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THE CLERK:

Senator Duff.

SEN. DUFF:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Freedman.

SEN. FREEDMAN:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator McDonald.

SEN. MCDONALD:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator McKinney. Senator McKinney. Senator  
Williams.

SEN. WILLIAMS:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Roraback.

SEN. RORABACK:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Colapietro.

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SEN. COLAPIETRO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator DeLuca.

SEN. DELUCA:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Daily.

SEN. DAILY:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Fasano.

SEN. FASANO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Guglielmo.

SEN. GUGLIELMO:

Yes.

THE CLERK:

Senator Nickerson. Senator Nickerson.

THE CHAIR:

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Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?  
The roll call will be closed. The Clerk will please  
announce the result.

THE CLERK:

The motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar No.  
3.

Total number voting, 33; necessary for adoption,  
17. Those voting "yea", 33; those voting "nay", 0.  
Those absent and not voting, 3.

THE CHAIR:

All items on the Consent Calendar are passed.

Mr. Majority Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Would move that  
any item on Senate Agenda No. 5 recently acted upon  
that requires action by the House of Representatives  
be transmitted immediately.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered. Mr. Majority  
Leader.

SEN. LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President, if we might stand at  
ease for a brief moment.

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Mr. Speaker, I move immediate transmittal of bills acted on today that need further action to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, so ordered. Clerk please call Calendar Number 618.

CLERK:

On Page 12, Calendar Number 618, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 96, AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, Favorable Report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on acceptance and passage.

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, this Bill deals with several changes to laws affected state contract, and ethics laws affecting the contractors therein.

009859

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Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 7341. I ask that he call, I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk has LCO Number 7341, previously designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A". Will the Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7341, Senate Amendment Schedule "A",  
offered by Senator DeFronzo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Hearing none, please proceed, Sir.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, Senate Amendment "A" adds provisions requiring state agencies to obtain from certain contractors, affidavits identifying consultants, increasing the information that client and communicator lobbyists must include with their registration, move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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Question is on adoption. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All in favor, signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 7451. I ask that he call, I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk has LCO Number 7451, designated Senate Amendment Schedule "B". Will the Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7451, Senate Amendment Schedule "B",  
offered by Senator DeFronzo.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection to summarization? If not, please proceed, Sir.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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Mr. Speaker, Senate Amendment Schedule "B" eliminates the provision in the original File requiring ethics compliance officers and liaisons to report suspected ethics violation by public officials, move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Representative Ward. Let me try your minds. All those in favor, Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY: (78<sup>th</sup>)

Please, Mr. Speaker, through you. How is reasonable cause to find in this Amendment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman could refer to the number in the Bill, we would appreciate it, or the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hamzy, could you give him a Line number.

REP. HAMZY: (78<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, in Line 6.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Line 6, Representative Caruso. Representative Caruso, we're on Senate Amendment Schedule "B", Line 6.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, what a person can reasonably conclude.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY: (78<sup>th</sup>)

I'm sorry, I did not hear the end of the answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, what an individual can reasonably conclude.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY: (78<sup>th</sup>)

What would give rise to reasonable cause? What type of act? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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Please be quiet ladies and gentleman. Take your seats. Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, hypothetically, a person would have to determine or believe that the individual has violated a portion of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY: (78<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, are there any enforcement provisions, or is there anything, any way that the official would be punished if he does not make this report? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, we're not aware of any.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY: (78<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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ngw  
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Thank you, Sir. Representative Farr. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of Senate Amendment Schedule "B" signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 7359. I ask that he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk has LCO Number 7359, identified as Senate Amendment Schedule "C". Will the Clerk please call.

CLERK;

LCO Number 7359, Senate Amendment Schedule "C",  
offered by Senator Prague.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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Mr. Speaker, Senate Amendment Schedule "A" decreases the training hours affirmative action officers must undergo. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question's on adoption. Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of Senate Amendment Schedule "C", signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further? Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 8250. I ask that he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk has LCO Number 8250. Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO Number 8250, House Amendment Schedule "A",  
offered by Representative Ryan.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, this Amendment allows appropriate examining boards to impose civil penalties on individuals operating without licensing for trades individuals.

It also highlights millwright work and it's included to the Department of Consumer Protection separate examining boards. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question, Sir.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Caruso, that new Section on millwright work, am I correct that this is an entirely new license that's being created?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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That's correct, Mr., through you, Mr. Speaker,  
that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, Mr.  
Speaker, I'll yield the floor to others.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Representative Ward. Representative  
Farr. Representative Len Greene of the 105<sup>th</sup>.

REP. GREENE: (105<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, question  
through you to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question.

REP. GREENE: (105<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this  
millwright license, we had a previous Bill, it was  
Senate Bill Number 1114, that had a Public Hearing on  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the General Law Committee.

I just was wondering why this is before us now.  
I know we did not have this up for J.F. through the

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General Law Committee, and I was just wondering why this is before us today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, those involved in the millwright trade felt the need to, and I was fine with putting it on there because it just adds to the Department of Consumer Protection an additional examining board dealing with millwright work, which is not covered under the current boards. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Greene.

REP. GREENE: (105<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the gentleman's answer. I'm just very curious as to why, as the Ranking Member of the General Law Committee, the Committee that had cognizance over the licensing, I was not brought up to date or given the consideration as to why this was important.

I know that when I sat down with the leadership of the General Law Committee, we were, we decided that we were not going to do this.

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And actually we were told that there weren't going to be any licenses that were going to be granted this year, additional licenses, yet, because of some work for solar related, we went and we granted the license.

I know I had a Bill that I wanted to get a license for hearth installers, and I was told well geez, we're not going to do licenses this year.

And now I see it's 9:30 o'clock p.m. at night, nobody consulted me since we had the public hearing, and all of a sudden before us I have here a new license, and you know, I don't think it's right.

I was you know, inclined to go along with certainly my Chairman of the Committee, my other Ranking Member and understand that if this was that important, I would think that the industry would approach me, and come up to me and say, Len, we need this license and this is why we need it.

Not at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, not at 9:30 o'clock p.m. at night, the last day of the Session. Mr. Speaker, I would urge this Chamber to reject this Amendment, and I thank you for your time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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Thank you, Sir. Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER: (55<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know it's frustrating when you see something like this happen at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

Representative Greene makes an exact point. We try very hard, particularly at the end of Session, to do the conferencing, to look over carefully what the Amendments are, particularly when there has not been a public hearing.

It's not the way we usually do business at the end of the Session, and it's very frustrating, so I agree that we should be rejecting this Amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Representative Gibbons.

Representative Christopher Stone of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

REP. STONE: (9<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I speak in favor of the Amendment, and I just want to extend some thoughts to the Chamber on the events that led to this Amendment being before us.

There was a public hearing, in fact, on February 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Bill. There was also a public hearing, I don't recall the exact date, but on the increase of the fines.

And we did receive, we did have several Bills that were before the Committee relating to licensing, and we took a very limited approach in the Committee on extending new licenses in the State of Connecticut.

This did come to us as a request from my Senate Co-Chair, we did have a full public hearing. I do understand the sentiments and the opinions expressed by my Ranking Member, who I very rarely quite frankly, if ever, this Session have disagreed with.

But on this particular matter, I would urge my fellow colleagues to join me in support of the Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL: (69<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point I would wonder if this Amendment is in fact germane. I would raise a Point of Order under Mason's 402.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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House will stand at ease.

(CHAMBER AT EASE)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

House will come back to order. Representative  
O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL: (69<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would withdraw  
my Point of Order.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Yeah, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the Amendment at  
this time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection? Hearing none, the Amendment  
is withdrawn. Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 8256. I  
ask that he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk has LCO Number 8256. Please call.

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CLERK:

LCO Number 8256, House "B", offered by  
Representative Caruso, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Hearing none, please proceed, Sir.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment would call on the Government Administrations and Elections Committee to set up a study of certified professional estimators in connection with the submission of bids on State contract projects. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Will you remark?  
Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I apologize, but I think the Chamber is going too fast. We do not have a copy of the Amendment. We are voting on things that we have not seen or looked at yet.

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So I really apologize for that, but we must wait until we receive the paperwork so we know what we are voting on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark further on House Amendment "B"? May we proceed, Representative Noujaim? You got a copy? Thank you, Sir.

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a question to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Just a second, Sir.

(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

May I have some quiet? Thank you.

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, to the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed, Sir. Representative Caruso, be prepared.

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REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Do we have a Fiscal Note on this Amendment?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There would be no cost. The Committee itself would be establishing the study. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark further on House Amendment "B"? 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.

REPRESENTATIVES:

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Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted.

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession LCO Number 8257. I ask that he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk does not have that Amendment.

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

It doesn't need to be withdrawn. It was never in our possession. Do you have anything further, Sir?

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. A final Amendment is LCO Number 8260. I ask that the Clerk call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Clerk, please call LCO Number 8260, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "C".

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CLERK:

LCO Number 8260, House "C", offered by  
Representative O'Brien.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment provides for the study of electronic recording systems in the filing of land records. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on adoption. Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I had not seen this Amendment at all, at any time. Maybe I should have, but I didn't.

My question, through you to the proponent of the Bill. Can the gentleman tell me if there was a public hearing on this concept as a separate Bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was in the GAE Committee. And we were unable to, in another

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Bill, get this passed, so we wanted to put it as an Amendment. It's merely a study of, as I said, electronic filing of land records. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, is there a Fiscal Note with this Amendment? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No Fiscal Note.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

House will stand at ease.

(CHAMBER AT EASE)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

House will come back to order. Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, the Fiscal Note reads that there is no fiscal impact. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

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REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that this may be a study. I'm looking at Line 100 and I'm trying to piece this together. And it indicates that someone will set forward the qualifications for town clerks.

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Are we contemplating creating some new qualifications for our town clerks? Through you to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's something that would be studied as part of the work of that Commission. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Thank the gentleman for his answer. And I will relinquish the floor. Others may have questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Alberts.

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REP. ALBERTS: (50<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question.

REP. ALBERTS: (50<sup>th</sup>)

Is there any impact, Mr. Speaker, on this Amendment with regard to the Bill we spent many hours on last night?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Which Bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts, give us a hint.

REP. ALBERTS: (50<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The Bill that basically now allows us to tack a \$30 filing fee on the first page of documents.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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Through you. I don't think so. This is merely a study encouraged by the Town Clerks Association before they enter into electronic filing. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS: (50<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you to Representative Caruso.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

When we had this Bill and a hearing on the Bill, there was a concern, because I think the Bill, the original Bill, required the Committee to set the standards.

And we talked about the fact that we were going to require the Committee to make a recommendation as to standards. Since I just got this Amendment, do you know if this, if we have adopted in here the language

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that they would simply make a recommendation to the  
Legislature?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that they  
would recommend to the Legislature their findings as  
part of the study.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Madam, Mr. Speaker. I think that, in  
fact. I think, in fact, that this may be consistent  
with the language we had recommended in Committee.  
Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question to the  
proponent of the Bill, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question, Sir.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

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Regarding the Line 100, qualifications for town clerks. Are these people appointed or elected?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Some appointed, some elected. Through you.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Would a study now affect the type of people who would be appointed or elected in any way?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That would be part of the study.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

I thank you for that wonderful answer. And I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Regarding the Line 100, qualifications for town clerks. Are these people appointed or elected?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Some appointed, some elected. Through you.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Would a study now affect the type of people who would be appointed or elected in any way?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That would be part of the study.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

I thank you for that wonderful answer. And I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark? Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the second time. I have now read through the Bill. It's a bit more than a study. Direct your attention, for the Members of the Chamber, to Line 28.

There is established an Electronic Recording Commission within the State Library for administrative purposes only. It then goes on to set terms of two and three years.

And so, although there is a requirement that they study and report to the General Assembly in February 1 of 2006, I think the Chamber should realize that we have created a Commission that will apparently exist for at least three years.

Since we are creating an entire new Commission, through you, a question to the gentleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

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Is there any money in the budget for this?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The State Library says it can do this within available appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm trying to add up the appointing authority and who's on. Perhaps the gentleman could indicate to me, based on the presumed political affiliation of the people that make the appointments, what the ratio of appointments are.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso. Who's on first?

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I wouldn't know what the makeup of party affiliation was. Was that the question? Through you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I, I'll just try to sort it out. I say there are appointments by various legislative authority and I am trying to figure out if it's in the normal way we set that up.

And I would kind of guess that, I guess we all know which is the majority and minority party in their party.

And I'm not trying to be a wise guy. Is the appointment process in this what is normal in the way we form commissions and authorities? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe so.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ward.

REP. WARD: (86<sup>th</sup>)

Thank the gentleman for his answer.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Representative Heagney.

REP. HEAGNEY: (16<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this was moving rather quickly. And I'm not sure I understand what this Amendment is doing. Could the gentleman please give us a full and accurate description of what this Amendment is doing and then we'll go from there?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso. Do you care to respond?

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, if I may at this time, because of the lateness of the hour and the importance of the Bill, I would withdraw the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso, you don't have the floor. Representative Heagney, will you yield the floor to Representative Caruso?

REP. HEAGNEY: (16<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, Mr. Speaker, to my delight.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you. Representative Caruso, do you still wish to withdraw the Amendment?

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REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection? Hearing none, the Amendment  
is withdrawn. Representative Caruso, do you have  
anything else?

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

No, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Will you remark on the Bill as amended? Will you  
remark on the Bill as amended? Are you ready for the  
question? Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, two quick questions, through you, to  
Representative Caruso.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed, Sir. Representative, please  
prepare yourself.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

There are two Sections I had a question about,  
Representative Caruso. One is Line 1629, where it  
talks about public official or State employee or  
member of immediate family of a public official or

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State employee shall knowingly accept or direct any gift costing more than \$100.

Language elsewhere in our ethics bills always talks about who, members of the immediate family who reside in the household. I don't know whether, is that the intent here or not?

That was something that concerned me in Committee. I don't know if it has been addressed in this Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

I'm sorry, how is it addressed? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

I'm sorry, I couldn't hear the question, please.

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(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Representative Farr, if you could please repeat the question.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Yes. There is language in here that says that no member of, public official or State employee or member of the immediate family of a public official shall knowingly accept any gift costing \$100 or more.

In most of our language in the ethics areas it talks about a member of the immediate family residing within the household. Is this limited to that, or would this mean if you had an adult child living out of state that they would also be covered by this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I think it relates to current statute.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Okay. I understand it relates to current

statute. Are you telling us that an adult member of the household who is not residing, an adult member of the family who is not residing in the household would or would not be restricted under this?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

I believe if they are not residing in the household, they would not be restricted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you. Thank you, Representative Caruso. Another quick question on Lines 684 through 692. There are provisions there about the extension of a, a food service contract.

Could you just tell us what that Section, the rest of the Section is not in the Bill and I didn't have a chance to pull this out, could you tell us what that's making reference to?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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One minute, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if Representative Farr would please repeat the question, I would appreciate it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Caruso. Section 24 of the Bill, Lines 682 through 692 make a reference to extensions of contracts and put restrictions on chief executive officers.

But, since this is out of context, I don't know under what circumstances this would apply to and who we are applying it to. Is this a new mandate on chief executive officers?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

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And, through you, is this a mandate on municipalities? I'm not entirely sure who chief executive officers are. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, it is not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

And then through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Caruso, who would be a chief executive officer under this Bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's with the State agency. The wording may be awkward, but I believe it's through a State agency.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Caruso. Is this simply a requirement that extends or makes it clear that State agencies who are required to comply with standard wage laws for these positions will now have to do it if they are extending contracts? Is that all this is doing? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

I believe that's correct, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ferrari.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of questions for the proponent of the Bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your questions.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

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Representative Caruso, on Lines somewhere between 1006 and 1012, it requires, actually Lines 1011 to 1012, it says geographic location of such firm in relation to the geographic location of a proposed project.

These consulting firms, I know, in many cases have multiple locations. Can you tell me how much weight this is given? Some of these consulting firms, are they penalized if they are further away from another one?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This had come up in hearings before the Committee. I think greater weight would be given to those that are closer to the subject property site.

It was a concern by companies that are owned and operated in the State of Connecticut that they be given extra consideration for the contracts. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ferrari.

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REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Representative Caruso. My concern, I guess, is that if we start trying to build in penalties for our firms or favoritism for firms instate, then other businesses that are out-of-state, in other states, may penalize us for having our businesses not being instate.

And I have another question regarding, between Lines 1224 and 1228. And it's Section 38 of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

If, it indicates that if someone is working to aid or promote the success or defeat of a political party, candidate, candidates, so on, that there's some kind, this is a service. How would we determine what the value of that service is?

(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Representative Caruso.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

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I'm interested in knowing how we would determine. In other words, if you have someone stuffing envelopes, that's one thing. If you have a campaign manager or you have a consultant or a poller, pollster, whatever, how would you determine the value of that service?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's concerning a determination of value. It's another item added to the list of exemptions in this Section, that being Section Number 2 that the gentleman refers to.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ferrari.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

Okay. I'm not sure I understand that, but realizing that it's late at night, I will try another one. Lines 1629 through 1633, about public official or state employee or members of an immediate family who shall knowingly accept any gift costing \$100 or more from a public official.

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How would I know that? would I, if somebody gives me gift, would I say to him, you got to tell me what the price is?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It may be advisable. If you think the gift is rather extraordinary, you may want to ask that. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ferrari.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

Okay, and if, for instance, it's not extraordinary, it's not a Jaguar or XKE or something like that. If it is merely a pad or something like that, a leatherette pad, would I, I mean, let's face it.

It's pretty inappropriate to ask people what the gifts are, what the gifts cost. And I think that's a bit impolite, particularly if it's a dot extraordinary, if it's something.

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And we realize that things cost more today. I'm not so sure that I'm real comfortable with that, but I guess I'll accept the gentleman's explanation.

I do have, I believe, one more question. And it's Lines 1730 or 1729 through 1733. Again, it's services provided to promote or aid the defeat of a candidate or candidates.

Does this mean that, if somebody has a contract with the State, if somebody is not a major contractor but has someone who works for a contractor, are they, are they, are we telling them that they cannot volunteer for a campaign or a political exercise?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ferrari.

REP. FERRARI: (62<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Representative Caruso. And thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the proponent of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please frame your question.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Caruso, Line 693. I don't know if this is existing language. It says effective from passage, the establishment of a disabled and disadvantaged employment security policy group.

And my question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is this a duplication of anything on federal law regarding Americans with Disabilities Act? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miller.

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REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Who would have the last say on this, the federal government or the State government?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would imagine that you are not permitted to supersede federal law.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: (122<sup>nd</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Caruso.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? If not, staff and guests, Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one last question from me on Section 55. Could Representative

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Caruso, this is on Subsection A, explain what that's all about? This is repealing the Widows and Orphan Fund.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, could the gentleman give me the line number please?

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Yes, I'm sorry. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Caruso, Lines 2147 through 2151 of the Senate "A".

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

And while Representative Caruso's preparing for that.

(GAVEL)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This had come up in a public hearing. It's a very old fraternal organization that had been created. Most of its

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Members had passed away and there's an amount of money, I think \$5,000 in the Fund.

In order for them to dissolve the organization and disperse the money they require approval of the State. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Farr.

REP. FARR: (19<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Floren. Representative Floren.

REP. FLOREN: (149<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you very much. As you can see, we have tried to build the SS GAE aircraft carrier. And I want to tell you, it makes me long for the lowly dinghy. But I think we have accomplished a lot and I think it should pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam. Representative Noujaim.

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Just a very brief and very sincere question to Representative Caruso.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74<sup>th</sup>)

Representative Caruso, from a management perspective. I am reading this Bill and, like in any organization, it seems to me that we are, unless I am misunderstanding something, it seems to me that we are shifting responsibilities from several departments to the Department of Administrative Services to deal with employees, to purchase products, to purchase materials, to purchase boater.

My question is this. Are we going to also shift personnel, reduce personnel from one organization, put it into another organization so that they can have sufficient manpower to do all of the things that they are entrusted to do in the future which they were not doing before? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

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Through you, Mr. Speaker. Those were requests directed from the agencies themselves.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Which means, which means you are taking away duties from one agency. So there will be one employee who probably is not going to be busy, from a productive standpoint.

And you are shifting it to a Department which is going to become very, very busy, which means the employees of that Department are going to be overwhelmed with work. Should there not be any transfer of employees between agencies? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. As a Legislature, we set overall policy. The day-to-day operations of these agencies we like to leave with those agencies. And when they came before the committee, they explained the reasoning. Through you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for informational purposes, if I may. Would we risk in the future, like as we set the budget for the next year for the General Assembly, we will have an agency coming and asking for more personnel, more expenses, more benefits, more overtime to be able to fulfill all of the requirements that are requested of them? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Caruso.

REP. CARUSO: (126<sup>th</sup>)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I was never good at reading crystal balls. I don't know. I believe Appropriations Committee will have to deal with that when it comes, if it possibly comes to the Committee. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM: (74<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate Representative Caruso's answer. But the thing about

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it is, we as the Legislature should be proactive and looking into the future.

It seems to me that we are going to risk having a shift in personnel and it's going to really put in an impact on some of our agencies. Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Representative for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Sir. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Are you ready for the question? If so, the machine will be opened.

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? Representative Giannaros. Thank you. If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And the Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

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Senate Bill Number 96, as amended by Senate  
Amendment Schedules "A", "B" and "C" and House  
Amendment Schedule "B".

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Bill as amended is passed. Representative  
Donovan.

REP. DONOVAN: (84<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Speaker, I move immediate transmittal of all  
bills acted upon today that require acting in the  
Senate. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection? Hearing none, so ordered.  
Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 298.

CLERK:

On Page 23, Calendar Number 298, Substitute for  
House Bill Number 6704, AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
DEFINITION OF LAKES, Favorable Report of the Committee  
on Legislative Management.

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PART 3  
620-939

2005



GOVERNMENT February 4, 2005  
ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONSSECURITY OF CERTAIN DISABLED AND  
DISADVANTAGED WORKERS.

We realize that last year we worked with the committee on the various issues around this bill, as we discussed employment opportunities for people with disabilities and work options for economically disadvantaged workers. Before I just comment on the bill, I just want to fill you in a little bit on the set-aside program.

Since 1977, CCPA has administered a set-aside program for people with disabilities. This is a separate set-aside program from the small and minority business set-aside programs. CCPA contracts with 28 private nonprofit provider agencies throughout the state whose clients perform work on government contracts.

This provides an opportunity for people with significant disabilities to work and receive job training and on-the-job supports. In fiscal year '04, this program created 701 jobs for individuals with disabilities in such areas as janitorial and lawn, food service, clerical, copying, mailing services, as well as production.

A prerequisite of this program is that 75% of the labor is to be provided by individuals with disabilities. The other workers on our contracts are job coaches or other non-disabled workers. The set-aside program is but one of many vehicles to assist people with disabilities in becoming fully integrated.

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We realize that the issues raised in S.B. 96 are complex. What happened last year is that we were pitting people with disabilities against economically disadvantaged workers. The extension of contracts was a way of sort of establishing a cooling-off period.

We are ready, willing, and able to work with the committee in coming up with lasting solutions to this complex issue. S.B. 96 is an attempt to, once again, extend the contracts and put a taskforce together to look at permanent solutions to this very complex issue.

We would like to work with the committee on maybe putting some kind of dollar amount thresholds on what contracts would be extended and what contracts would go out to bid. Right now, only contracts over \$50,000 a year are subject to the prevailing wage. Maybe there is some flexibility there.

We look forward to working with the committee, not only in S.B. 96, but in finding a long-term solution so that both people with disabilities and economically disadvantaged workers have opportunities in the workforce. We look forward to this opportunity.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you. Are there any questions? Thank you very much for testifying.

DONALD ROMANIK: Thank you.

REP. CARUSO: Next speaker, it's hard to make out the last name, but Susan Giacalone, is it? Okay. I don't know if I'm right on that.

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REP. CARUSO: Other questions? Thank you very much.

KATHRYN PRICE: Thank you.

REP. CARUSO: Bill Green?

BILL GREEN: Hi. My name is Bill Green. I am the Vice President of Service Contracts for CW Resources. I am here to talk about S.B. 96. Our role at CW is to provide employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities.

The state is an invaluable resource on those jobs and those opportunities. We understand that the problem that faces us is that we're pitting two groups against each other, but I want to stress the importance of the jobs that the State of Connecticut provides for people with disabilities.

We have many contracts with the state. Anytime we have an opening, we have a list of workers with disabilities looking to have that opportunity.

We support this bill because we feel that it will give us an opportunity to work out something with both parties, so everyone will be treated fairly. We understand how difficult this problem is.

We stand ready and willing to work with any group and any party to resolve this problem. Again, we can't stress enough how important these jobs are to the people we work with. Thank you.

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REP. CARUSO: Questions? Thank you, Sir. Oh, sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He is from New Britain.

REP. CARUSO: Okay. He is from New Britain.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thanks for coming out this morning, Bill. I know Ron is not here this morning. I know I recognize Ron's willingness, Ron Buccilli, he's the Director of the Constructive Workshop, his willingness to engage in a dialogue on this issue over the last number of months.

It has been very helpful. I just wanted to ask you this. There is a list of potential prospective participants on this committee to discuss this issue in a study group. Have you had a chance to review that list?

BILL GREEN: I have not, no.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Okay. Let me just, one group, which has come to my attention that we have left off that list is the Bureau of Education Services for the Blind, BESB.

Just your quick opinion, do you think that there would be an important addition to that list perhaps?

BILL GREEN: Yeah. I think it would be. We do employ many of their clients in our programs. So they would, I think, be a valuable resource in that process. Thank you.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you. Andy Sauer followed by Walter Drew, and then Robert Fromer.

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REP. FERRARI: Thank you very much. Thank you,  
Mr. Chairman.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you, Sir. Thank you very much  
for coming. I appreciate it.

MARK BEHRENS: Thank you very much.

REP. CARUSO: The next speaker is Tom Swan  
followed by Rosario Rondinelli, Art Perry,  
and then Dennis O'Neil.

TOM SWAN: Good afternoon, Representative Caruso,  
Senator DeFronzo, members of the committee.  
My name is Tom Swan. I am the Executive  
Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action  
Group. I want to, again, today, commend this  
committee for your efforts to restore the  
public trust in our government.

Today, I'm going to focus most of my remarks  
on H.B. 5204, AN ACT CONCERNING POTENTIAL  
CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS FOR REGISTERED  
LOBBYISTS.

First, I must disclose, I am a lobbyist. I  
have been a lobbyist. Some of my best  
friends are lobbyists.

CCAG believes that lobbying plays an  
important role in representing a variety of  
interests before this body and governmental  
agency. However, the recent scandals have  
proven in Connecticut that we need greater  
restrictions on lobbyists, as Governor Rell  
has proposed in her own package of reform  
bills.

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Connecticut is fortunate to have many qualified residents for those boards and commissions. We need to limit the potential for abuse.

In addition, I'd like to speak briefly on a couple of other bills. Proposed S.B. 193, AN ACT CONCERNING INCENTIVE BONUSES PAID BY QUASI PUBLICS, is a good bill. I think we need to rethink the privatization of the lottery.

I think we should outlaw any incentives based upon encouraging more gambling within the State of Connecticut.

H.B. 5283, pertaining to voter education and a voter guide, is a bill that CCAG has supported in the past. S.B. 54, AN ACT PERTAINING TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES, is only something that makes sense that we do to celebrate citizenship in people, the rights of citizenship.

In addition, we support S.B. 96. I'm done. Thank you very much.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you. Any questions?  
Representative Caron?

REP. CARON: Thanks. I just had a quick one. You mentioned, was it the bonuses, the issue of incentive bonuses? My understanding is that certain employees, some may be in quasi publics, reach a certain level of salary based on their grade and would no longer be eligible for any more raises for the rest of their career.

SB193

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ART PERRY: Representative Caruso, is it okay if I sit with Rosario Rosario?

REP. CARUSO: Yeah, sure.

ROSARIO RONDENELLI: My name is Rosario Rondinelli. Good afternoon. I'm speaking for an act concerning the employment security of certain disabled and disadvantaged workers. Thank you, Senator DeFronzo, and, Representative Caruso, and members of the GAE Committee for having a hearing on this important issue.

I'm speaking today in favor of S.B. 96, AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY OF CERTAIN DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED WORKERS. I am a member of the Janitors' Union Local 32BJ.

I know the workers that lost their jobs at 25 Sigourney Street and 165 Capitol Avenue when set-aside contractors were given the janitorial contract to provide vocational services to people with disabilities.

I support this bill because the disadvantaged and the disabled worker needs long-term employment opportunities, job protection, and a career ladder.

This bill is a good way to address these issues cooperatively. On behalf of my brothers and sisters that clean state buildings, thank you for addressing the problem, and, please, pass S.B. 96.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you, Rosario. I think you're right up next on the same subject, so why

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don't you speak? Then if there are questions, both you and Rosario can answer them.

ART PERRY: Thank you very much. My name is Art Perry, and I am the Political Director for the Service Employees National Union, Local 32BJ, also known as Justice for Janitors. We want to thank Senator DeFronzo, and Representative Caruso, and members of this committee for our opportunity to speak in support of S.B. 96.

This is an act about the employment opportunity security of disabled and disadvantaged workers, which we, on behalf of hundreds of janitors who clean state buildings, including this one, believe is a good start toward addressing the problems faced by disadvantaged and disabled service workers.

When state contracts that we work under are put out to bid, and a new contractor is awarded the contract, workers are faced with the problems of, one, being thrown out and, two, finding other meaningful employment.

It is shameful that these workers have to live with the fear of losing their jobs. They have to live with the discouragement of not having a career ladder or a supportive environment or other meaningful work that can enable them to move towards their dreams and potentials.

This bill can create policies to stop unnecessary worker-displacement problems that are caused by the state conducting business

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as usual, such as the bidding of janitorial service contracts without regard for those that are actually performing the work that is being put to bid.

A major part of this bill is that it calls for a moratorium on the bidding of these services for one year before the contract expiration. This moratorium or contract extension provides the foundation for a meaningful understanding of the problem of worker displacement.

It will allow for evaluation, analysis, and recommendations on how to improve the quality of work life for the disabled and the disadvantaged.

The moratorium is a good thing to do because without it, there will be no real cooperation or understanding or a will to create positive changes in the lives of these workers.

In the 2004 legislative session, the Legislature put a one-year bidding moratorium on these services in an acknowledgement of the problem of providing meaningful employment for people with disabilities and eliminating the constant churning in and out of the workforce of the disadvantaged worker.

The moratorium did more than that. It gave us time to cooperate and to brainstorm ways that workers can benefit from policy changes without one group suffering the employment needs of the other, which is what this bill is about.

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In addition, we would like to see the scope of the moratorium expanded to cover contracts in the Department of Higher Education. Currently, the moratorium only addresses contracts awarded by the Department of Administrative Services.

As we sit here today, the janitorial services contracted at Capital Community College, for example, are up for bidding. The workers there are very concerned and afraid that their jobs will be lost, if an unscrupulous contractor wins the bid and throws them out only to replace them with a different group of disadvantaged or disabled workers.

We urge you to amend this bill to include contracts awarded by the Department of Higher Education and any other state department, so that all disabled and disadvantaged workers who perform work in connection with certain state-agency contracts will benefit. Thank you for your time.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you. Are there questions of Art or Rosario at this time?

SEN. DEFRONZO: Good morning, Art, and, Rosario, good to have you here. We've actually come quite a ways on this bill in the last year, haven't we?

ART PERRY: Yes.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Last year, we had dueling hearings and meetings long into the night as we were trying to work out a solution.

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It is interesting today that both your organization and CCPA have come together, at least, to tentatively endorse the concept presented in the bill as a means by which we can all move forward to try and find a significant resolution to this issue of the disabled and the disadvantaged workers competing for the same work in state buildings.

I just wanted to ask you this. You've had an opportunity to see the potential list of participants in the committee.

ART PERRY: Yes.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Do you think that is an adequate list? Would you have any recommendations for additional inclusions?

ART PERRY: Currently, we could endorse that list with lukewarm enthusiasm. We're having internal discussions on how we can increase our effect on this legislation.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Obviously, if we extend it to higher education, it obviously needs to include a Representative from that sector as well.

ART PERRY: Yes, Sir. That is part of our lukewarm encouragement.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Okay. Well, I thank you for being part of this important debate. I look forward to working with you and CCPA over the next couple of weeks to try to put it together.

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ART PERRY: Thank you.

REP. CARUSO: Thank you very much, Art. Thank you, Rosario, for coming up today. And all the folks there, thank you for coming today too. Our final speaker is Dennis O'Neil. Is Dennis here? Okay. Dennis is not here. Okay.

Then we'll call this public hearing to a close. Our next meeting is a public hearing on Monday morning at 11:00. Thank you all very much.

[Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned.]

Public Hearing Testimony of Art Perry  
Political Director  
Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ  
In Support of SB 96 An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Disabled and  
Disadvantaged Workers  
Friday, Feb. 4, 2005

My name is Art Perry and I am the Political Director for the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ also known as "Justice for Janitors". Thank you Senator Defronzo and Representative Caruso and members of the G.A.E. committee for the opportunity to speak in support of S.B. 96. This is An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Disabled and Disadvantaged Workers, which we on behalf of hundreds of janitors who clean State buildings including this one, believe is a good start toward addressing the problems faced by disadvantaged and disabled service workers. When State contracts that we work under are put out to bid and a new contractor is awarded the contract, workers are faced with the problems of (1) being thrown out and (2) finding other meaningful employment. It is shameful that these workers have to live with the fear of losing their jobs. They have to live with the discouragement of not having a career ladder or a supportive environment or other meaningful work that can enable them to move towards their dreams and potentials. This bill can create policies to stop unnecessary worker displacement problems that are caused by the State conducting business as usual, such as the bidding of janitorial service contracts without regard for those that are actually performing the work that is being put to bid.

A major part of this bill is that it calls for a moratorium on the bidding of these services for one year beyond the contract expiration. This moratorium or contract extension provides the foundation for a meaningful understanding of the problem of worker displacement and it will allow for evaluation, analysis and recommendations on how to improve the quality of work life for the disabled and disadvantaged. The moratorium is a good thing to do because without it, there will not be real cooperation or understanding or a will to create positive changes in the lives of these workers. In the 2004 Legislative session this Legislature put a one year bidding moratorium on these services, in an acknowledgement of the problems of providing meaningful employment for people with disabilities and eliminating the constant churning in and out of the workforce of the disadvantaged worker. The moratorium did more than that; it gave us time to cooperate and to brainstorm ways that workers can benefit from policy changes without one group suffering the employment needs of the other, which is what this bill is about.

In addition, we would like to see the scope of the moratorium expanded to cover contracts in the Dept. of Higher Education. Currently the moratorium only addresses contracts awarded by the Dept. of Administrative Services and as we sit here today the janitorial services contract at Capitol Community College for example is up for bidding and the workers there are very concerned and afraid that their jobs will be lost if an unscrupulous contractor wins the bid and throws them out only to replace them with a different group of disadvantaged or disabled workers. We urge you to amend this bill to include contracts awarded by the Dept. of Higher Education and any other State Dept. so that all disabled and disadvantaged workers who perform work in connection with certain state agency contracts benefit.

1-4-05

**Testimony of Rosario Rondinelli  
Member of SEIU Local 32BJ  
In support of Senate Bill # 96  
An Act concerning the employment security of  
certain disabled and disadvantaged workers**

**Thank you Senator DeFronzo and Representative Caruso and members of the GAE Committee for having a hearing on this important issue. My name is Rosario Rondinelli; I'm speaking today in favor of Senate Bill 96, An Act Concerning The Employment Security Of Certain Disabled and Disadvantaged Workers. I am a member of the janitors Union Local 32BJ. I know the workers that lost their jobs at 25 Sigourney Street and 165 Capitol Ave. when set aside contractors were given the janitorial contract to provide vocational services to people with disabilities. I support this bill because the Disadvantaged and the Disabled worker need long term employment opportunities, job protection and a career ladder. This bill is a good way to address these issues cooperatively. On behalf of my brothers and sisters that clean State buildings, thank you for addressing the problem and please pass Senate Bill #96.**



**Connecticut Community Providers Association**  
*a unified voice for community human service providers*

February 4, 2005

**Government Administration & Elections Committee Testimony**

**S.B. 96 An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Certain Disabled and Disadvantaged Workers**

Good morning. I am Donald Romanik, Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs for Oak Hill. Oak Hill is a private, not-for-profit agency that provides residential, educational, vocational and other services for people with disabilities, including mental retardation, throughout Connecticut. I am speaking to you today as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Community Providers Association. CCPA represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and special needs including children and adults with addictions, mental illness, and developmental and physical disabilities.

**I wish to discuss provisions of 96 An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Certain Disabled and Disadvantaged Workers.**

We worked with the Committee during the 2004 session to address issues relating to supporting employment opportunities for people with disabilities and work options for economically disadvantaged workers. This resulted in a temporary extension of existing janitorial, building maintenance and related contracts for one year. We would like to address the proposed continuation of this extension and the establishment of a policy group in our testimony after providing a quick background of the services we provide for people with disabilities.

Since 1977 CCPA has administered a "set aside" program for people with disabilities authorized under P.A. 77-405. This is separate from the small and minority business set aside programs. CCPA subcontracts with 28 private nonprofit provider agencies throughout the state whose clients perform the work on government contracts. This provides an opportunity for people with

CCPA Testimony  
**S.B. 96 An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Certain Disabled and  
Disadvantaged Workers**  
February 4, 2005 – page 2

significant disabilities to work, receiving job training and on-the-job supports. In FY04 this program created 701 jobs for individuals with disabilities in such areas as janitorial and lawn, food service, clerical, copying, and mailing services as well as production.

A prerequisite of this program is that 75% of the labor is to be provided by individuals with disabilities. The other workers on our contracts are job coaches or other non-disabled workers. The set aside program is but one of many vehicles to assist people with disabilities in becoming fully integrated members of our society, in accordance with the mission of private provider agencies.

The issues raised in S.B. 96 are extremely complex. We have appreciated the efforts of your Committee and the work of other legislators in the past session to address the dual issues of assuring work opportunities for people with disabilities while protecting disadvantaged workers. The freeze on contract renewals since last May has provided a necessary “cooling off” period. At the same time, it has limited the expansion of job opportunities for people with disabilities as we lost the ability to bid on eight contracts that would have come up for renewal during the past year. This translates into loss of job opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

**If the Committee recommends extending the freeze in contract renewals for another year, we ask that you consider modifying the contracts on the list from those over \$50,000 for the life of the contract to those over \$200,000 for the life of the contract.** Since all contracts over \$50,000 in value are paid according to the “standard wage,” a three year \$50,000 contract provides work opportunities of only five hours of work a day. (The “standard wage” in the Hartford area is currently \$12.86 an hour with a \$3.86 health and welfare benefit, for a total of \$16.72 an hour.) Increasing the threshold to \$200,000 for the contract duration would provide an expanded work opportunity, providing for approximately two FTEs a day on a three year contract.

CCPA Testimony

**S.B. 96 An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Certain Disabled and Disadvantaged Workers**

February 4, 2005 – page 3

**We support the establishment of a Disabled and Disadvantaged Employment Security Policy Group that will make long term policy recommendations.** This group will give all sides an opportunity to participate in developing an action plan separate from the pressure of the session. We recommend that as you constitute this group you give consideration to including individuals with expertise in government preferred purchasing programs. We could benefit from the expertise of programs similar to ours in other states and of national programs.

We look forward to working with the Committee to develop specific provisions for contracting opportunities and in participating on the proposed policy group. Thank you for the opportunity of testifying.

JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

GOVERNMENT  
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have received more money from the tobacco settlement? We'll never know that answer.

What I'm hoping that we can do is that in the future, we can just get an idea of how much those services would cost. When a rate is negotiated, we would have some public input. I think that's important, and I think it's overdue.

REP. FERRARI: I tend to agree with you. I think that almost in every other instance, we ask for nickels and dimes all the way up to what the bottom line is. It clearly makes a lot of sense to me. Thank you, Sir.

REP. HARKINS: Thank you.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Are there other questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

REP. HARKINS: Thank you, Senator.

SEN. DEFRONZO: You pricked our interest in this bill, so we'll give it some real consideration. Senator Cook, good morning.

SEN. COOK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, if you can believe this clock. Oh, I'm glad I'm not on this Committee. You have hard work to do. I have so many other committees and so many other things.

Congratulations, Representative Caruso. It is nice to see you as a Chairman now. Good afternoon to my Ranking Members. It's good to see you both.

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I am here to testify in favor of S.B. 96.  
This would be, CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT  
SECURITY OF CERTAIN DISABLED AND  
DISADVANTAGED WORKERS.

My testimony is going to be primarily aimed,  
I think, at the Members of the House because  
you did not witness some of the high drama in  
the wee hours of the Senate last year when we  
were really trying to work out how we can go  
forward to help two disadvantaged groups of  
workers in our state be able to compete  
equally or to work in the kinds of work that  
each of them can do in buildings that have  
contracts for custodial and food service work  
that are negotiated by the Department of  
Administrative Services.

I have to tell you, this is a celebratory day  
for someone like me. People with mental  
retardation have now achieved a level of  
competitiveness in the workforce that we have  
to have this discussion.

It was a long time ago, in the early 1980's  
that I started as a fledgling nonprofit group  
that did the first supported employment  
contract in the State of Connecticut.

Now, here we are, more than 20 years later,  
recognizing that people with disabilities  
can, indeed, work in real jobs, earn real  
wages, maybe become union members, but  
certainly always be able to be out there with  
us and not locked in sheltered workshops,  
sentenced to vocational training forever, and  
never be able to move on.

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The reality of where we are today means that we have disadvantaged workers, people with language barriers, people who are coming to us for an entry-level job, and who are also doing janitorial, and custodial, and food service work who need to have some sense of job security as they move along.

So we were presented last year, in the Senate in particular, and I know you knew about some of the stuff in the House, with a clash of what is right.

The Proposed Bill that was offered last year would have prevented people with mental retardation and physical and mental handicaps from ever being able to compete on an equal level with the kinds of custodial, and janitorial, and food service work that the state has to offer in contracts.

Well, that wasn't right. It was neither right that we looked at these incumbent workers, so to speak, and not allow them some sense of job security as they move along.

So we asked for, you know, breathing space last year after many wee-hour negotiations between Senator DeFronzo, and me, and the interested groups that were involved trying to figure out how we could avoid a war and how we could really go onto something particularly unique.

We need a little more time, and that is what Proposed H.B. 9 is about. Please, give us a little more time.

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Allow the Department of Administrative Services the ability to extend the existing contracts unless there is cause to dissolve one, to extend them another year, so that we can work out what Senator DeFronzo and I hope will be a super set-aside concept.

It's a concept where we can blend these two workforces together and give them extra advantage in a contract bidding, but also have the advantage of allowing people with disabilities to work side by side with people who have a disadvantage.

I believe in my heart of hearts, having started the job coach movement and having worked with job coaches many times, frankly, I think the disadvantaged workers are going to gain a lot from the concept of having a job coach on the scene with the disabled workers.

The ideas of work ethics, and coming every day, and good behavior on the job are not unique needs of people with disabilities. They are needs of all people in these entry-level jobs.

So I think that we have an opportunity to do something forward thinking and unique. I've been working throughout the summer and in the fall with the U.S. Department of Labor, trying to figure out if there are other states, best practices somewhere else.

Quite honestly, there are a handful of little programs, but nothing on the wide scale that we're looking to do here in Connecticut. I

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believe that we can set a whole new path in this way.

We can offer the benefits of union membership to people with disabilities in this blended workforce. We can offer the benefits of job coaching and the incremental supports of being a good worker that we offer to people with disabilities for the disadvantaged workers to create a new kind of paradigm for how contracts are bid and won that support these two groups.

So I'm asking for you to support Senator DeFronzo and me in our request to extend this another year. There are some complicating factors that we're going to have to consider, particularly the prevailing wage rates.

As they change during the year, these folks, the contractors have already extended a contract one year. Now, we're going to ask them to extend it a second year, yet, the prevailing wage rate gets amended a couple of times a year.

They didn't factor that in, so we're going to have to do an accommodation. I'm not here to present to you what that accommodation is yet, but we are going to have to figure out an accommodation.

It would not have been appropriate to expect that someone who bid a contract four years ago that's been extended twice would have factored in the fluxuations of the prevailing wage over time.

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I do think that we can forge some wonderful new ground here to put together a working group, a policy group, as is suggested by the Chairman, that can really set a standard for the nation.

We did it 20 some years ago with supported employment. I believe we can do it now with super set asides and blended employment. I am happy to take any questions.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you, Senator Cook. I want to recognize your great patience and advocacy last year. I admire that greatly. You do a great job representing your viewpoint.

I tend to agree with you. We have a great opportunity here with everybody finally agreeing to come to the table. I think we have great possibilities. Any questions? No. Thank you very much for your testimony.

SEN. COOK: Thank you.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Jeff Garfield.

[GAP - 6 seconds]

JEFF GARFIELD: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Members, Members of the GAE Committee. My name is Jeff Garfield. I am the Executive Director and General Counsel for the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

I'm here to comment on some of the bills that you have on your agenda today. The first is

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That is a concern that has been voiced. You know, the moderator's loyal to the incumbent registrar. Those appointments were made in more districts than in others, things of that nature.

SEN. DEFRONZO: I thank you very much. I appreciate your testimony.

JEFF GARFIELD: Thank you.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Fernando Betencourt.

BRIAN SIGMAN: Good afternoon, Senator DeFronzo, Members of the Committee. My name is Brian Sigman. I am the Executive Director of the State of Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind or BESB, as most folks know us.

I'm here in regards to Raised S.B. 96. I'm just here to bring a matter forward as it's been communicated to me by some of the members of the blind community.

We have a statute that's been on the books for a very long time. We trace it back to 1949, 10-303, which is the first right of refusal of entrepreneurs who are blind to operate food service concessions on municipal property.

The question that was brought up is whether or not the language in Proposed S.B. 96, which does include food and beverage services, would in any way be in conflict with 10-303.

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The research that I've done on it is indicating to me that even this particular bill is based on some language that has been in existence for a considerable number of years.

It looks like it's going all the way back to 1990. So these two statutes have been living in harmony for a great many years is how I [Gap in testimony. Changing from Tape 1B to 2A.]

--a level of concern that as S.B. 96 works its way through, that folks remain cognizant of 10-303 because that particular statute is a wonderful opportunity for people that are blind to become business owners and become self-sustaining.

There is another thing I just wanted to point out from listening to some of the testimony. I see that the language in Proposed S.B. 96 for disabled and disadvantaged workers, in many cases, those are not mutually exclusive of each other.

Many folks with disabilities that we serve also would qualify as either recipients of S.S.I. or S.S.V.I. So I think that there may be more of a connect and a disconnect in that language.

Certainly, some of our consumers that had been previously at BESB Industries have taken advantage of some of the set-aside contracts.

In fact, the person who cleans our building is through a set-aside contract. He's

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legally blind. He had come out of BESB Industry.

So I think it's always a good idea to look at language that strengthens opportunities for people with disabilities, folks who have barriers to employment to gain access to that.

You know, sometimes the technical language should make sure that they don't inadvertently exclude another authorizing statute. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you for coming in and calling our attention to that. We will monitor that as it goes forward to legislation.

I know you called the other day, and you had taken a look at that. So I appreciate it. Certainly, the moratorium shouldn't dislocate anyone, obviously, because that sort of freezes everything in place for another year.

What happens after that, I guess, would be the real concern. Anyway, thanks again. Any other questions? Thank you very much.

BRIAN SIGMAN: Thank you for your time.

[GAP - 15 seconds]

CAROL WILSON: S.B. 96, AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY OF CERTAIN DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED WORKERS. You've heard testimony, both last Friday and today, about

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the efforts of Senator DeFronzo, Senator Cook, and unions in Connecticut Community Providers Association attempting to resolve some of the issues in janitorial and other service contracts awarded by the state.

Last year, when this issue arose, Senator DeFronzo and Senator Cook asked DAS to identify service contracts that would have been affected by this legislation and requested that we extend those contracts for another year or so, so that the parties involved could take the time to write out a solution.

In the interim, the parties decided to establish a disabled and disadvantaged employment security policy group to make recommendations to the General Assembly about long-term employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged workers.

S.B. 96 allows the service contracts at issue be extended for another year while this group does its work. DAS is ready and willing to do whatever it can to help Senator DeFronzo and Senator Cook, the unions, and CCPA realize their goals.

If extending the existing service contracts is what it takes to facilitate this agreement, of course, we will work to that end.

We have identified 29 service contracts that are currently set to expire sometime in 2005. While we would need some time to speak with using agencies and the vendors themselves to

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make sure there are no impediments to the contract extensions from their perspective, we currently do not see a problem with most of the contracts at issue.

Some of the contracts, however, are valued at more than \$50,000 per year and, therefore, subject to the standard wage rate increases required by law.

Since vendors that originally bid on these were awarded these contracts and only anticipated wages and other costs for the original term of the contract, requiring them to extend their obligations for an additional year may place them in a tenable financial situation.

However, DAS will certainly explore these contracts with the vendors and will determine if they are ready, and willing, and able to extend their agreements, notwithstanding those requirements.

We will continue to be in touch with Senator DeFronzo and Senator Cook throughout this process. I thank you for the opportunity to appear today before you, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you very much for your testimony and your cooperation. Tell me, if the contracts did last and you went back out to bid, the cost factor you identified now would be built into the base cost of these contracts. Is it a set amount?

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CAROL WILSON: The wage rate factor is determined, yes, at the time the new bid would go out. It would be the wage rate factor at that time.

SEN. DEFRONZO: So in the case of these contracts that are expiring, I guess the issue would be, can we build in that cost adjustment that they otherwise would be entitled to if these contracts went up to bid again?

CAROL WILSON: That is correct. We would have to build in that adjustment the way the law is interpreted.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Right. You don't see that as a new cost. I mean, that would be a cost we were looking to incur anyway, even if we went out to bid again, right?

CAROL WILSON: We would. There could be other overhead cost, cost of transporting employees or other costs that might have changed since the original bid went out.

That is why we would have to check with the vendors to determine if any of those issues were, in fact, issues.

SEN. DEFRONZO: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much for your help. I appreciate it.

CAROL WILSON: Thank you.

[GAP - 6 seconds]

RICHARD ABBATE: Good afternoon, Senator DeFronzo, Members of the Committee. I am Richard



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1658SB 96**An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Certain Disabled  
and Disadvantaged Workers****General Administration & Elections Committee  
February 7, 2005**

Senator DeFronzo, Representative Caruso, and members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee, my name is Carol Wilson and I am the Director of Procurement at the Department of Administrative Services.

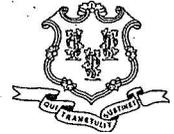
You have heard testimony, both last Friday and today, about the efforts of Senator DeFronzo, Senator Cook, the unions and the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) attempting to resolve some of the issues surrounding janitorial and other service contracts awarded by the state.

Last year, when this issue arose, Senators DeFronzo and Cook asked DAS to identify the service contracts that would have been affected by the legislation, and requested that we extend those contracts for a year so that the parties involved could take the time to arrive at a solution. In the interim, the parties decided to establish a Disabled and Disadvantaged Employment Security Policy Group to make recommendations to the General Assembly about long-term employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged workers. Senate Bill 96 allows that the service contracts at issue be extended for another year while this Group does its work.

DAS is ready and willing to do whatever it can to help Senator DeFronzo, Senator Cook, the unions and CCPA realize their goals. If extending existing service contracts is what takes to facilitate agreement between the parties, we will, of course, work toward that end.

DAS has identified 29 service contracts that are currently set to expire sometime in 2005. While we would need some time to speak with the contracting agencies and the contractors themselves to make sure there are no impediments to the contract extensions from their perspectives, we currently do not see a problem most of the contracts at issue. Some of the contracts, however, are valued at more than \$50,000 per year, and are therefore subject to the standard wage rate increases required by law. Since the vendors that originally bid on and were awarded these contracts only anticipated wages and other costs for the original term of the contract, requiring them to extend their obligations for an additional year may place them in an untenable financial situation. However, DAS will certainly explore whether these contractors are able and willing to extend their agreements, notwithstanding those requirements. We will continue to be in touch with Senator DeFronzo and Senator Cook throughout this process.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Board of EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

February 7, 2005

Testimony of:

Brian S. Sigman  
Executive Director  
State of Connecticut  
Board of Education and Services for the Blind

RE:

**SB 96 -- AN ACT CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT  
SECURITY OF CERTAIN DISABLED AND  
DISADVANTAGED WORKERS.**

Senator DeFronzo, Representative Caruso and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today in regards to Proposed Bill 96, An Act Concerning the Employment Security of Certain Disabled and Disadvantaged Workers. My name is Brian Sigman and I am the Executive Director of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, or BESB.

I am here to speak to the language that is referenced in Proposed Bill 96, primarily to seek assurances that nothing within this proposed bill is intended to impact negatively upon the provisions of Connecticut General Statute 10-303, "Food service facilities and vending

*"Creating Independence and Integration"*

Telephone: 1-860-602-4000 Toll Free: 1-800-842-4510 FAX 1-860-602-4020  
184 Windsor Avenue, Windsor, Connecticut 06095

stands in public buildings.” This Statute, which traces its roots to a long and proud history through the Federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, provides for people who are blind to have the first right to opportunities to establish and operate food service concessions on public properties. Through this Statute, blind people achieve financial success as entrepreneurs, operating gift shops, snack bars and cafeterias. Those of you who have bought a newspaper or Valentines Day gift at the Legislative Office Building Gift Store have personally experienced 10-303 in action. Quite simply, it is a wonderful and powerful affirmation on behalf of the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government in Connecticut of the importance to provide blind people with opportunities that result in valued contributions to society by managing their own businesses, with administrative support through BESB.

In much the same manner that Statute 10-303 provides for unique employment opportunities for people who are blind, Proposed Bill 96 opens doors to others with disabilities to gain access to service contracts that result in gainful employment. My presence here today is to affirm the value of such legislative proposals that recognize the need to develop and support employment for people who may otherwise face significant barriers to the labor market. However, I do wish to advocate for the continued reaffirmation that nothing within the provisions of Proposed Bill 96 could unintentionally result in a negative impact on Statute 10-303.

Perhaps the Committee could consider adding a clarifying sentence to Proposed Bill 96 that would acknowledge the authorizing language of Statute 10-303 for food and beverage services at public locations, so

that members of the blind community, whom have made a number of inquires on the language within this proposed bill, could be assured of the intent on the part of the Legislature to continue those important employment opportunities for blind people as well.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.