

Act Number: 09-145

Bill Number: 754

Senate Pages: 2450-2453, 2585-2588 **8**

House Pages: 8104-8109 **6**

Committee: Public Health: 21, 25 **2**

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SENATE**

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Yes, thank you Mr. President for a change of a couple of Calendar markings. On Calendar page 24, Calendar 103, Senate Bill 754, previously marked "passed temporarily." If that item might now be marked "go" and called next. And then, also, Calendar page 24, Calendar 136, Senate Bill 789 should be the second "go" item. And then, Calendar page 25, Calendar 365, previously marked "go", should be marked "passed temporarily." And also, Calendar page 24, Calendar 115, Senate Bill 80, also "passed temporarily."

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to Calendar page 24, Calendar Number 103, File Number 25, Senate Bill number 754, AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE STATUTES REGARDING PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, Favorably Reported out of the Public Health and Judiciary. Clerk is in possession of Amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

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SENATOR HARRIS:

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

THE CHAIR:

Questions on passage. Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this makes technical changes to the statutes with respect to persons with psychiatric disabilities and persons with substance abuse disorders. It is a bill that's been brought to us by DMUS. Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment, LCO number 5749. I ask that it be called and request permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO number 749, which is designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A" is offered by Senator Harris of the 5th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

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SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Questions on adoption. You wish to comment further?

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. This adds some additional technical changes to the underlying bill. I urge adoption of the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Further comment on the Amendment? Seeing none, all those in favor of the Amendment, please signify by saying Aye.

THE SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The Amendment is adopted. Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. If there's no objection, I ask that this matter be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 136, File Number 84, Senate Bill
789, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHARING OF INFORMATION
BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE, Favorably
Reported, Committee on Public Health, Human Services
and Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

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

THE CHAIR:

Questions on passage? Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this
bill will allow the Department of Developmental
Services to obtain certain information on clients from
the Department of Children and Families. Mr.
President, the Clerk is in the possession of an

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that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk, would you please return to the call of the Calendar. Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if the Clerk might call the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

The roll call has been ordered 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? Mr. President, those items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 5. Calendar Number 392, House Bill 6433.

Calendar 397, Substitute for House Bill 5915.

Calendar 405, House Bill 5536.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 406, House Bill 5873.

Calendar 457, substitute for House Bill 6264.

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Calendar page 12. Calendar Number 599,
substitute for House Bill 6463.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 608, House Bill 6640.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 611, substitute for
House Bill 6341.

Calendar 612, substitute for House Bill 6286.

Calendar 620, substitute for House Bill 5664.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 622, substitute for
House Bill 6496.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 628, House Bill 5809.

Calendar 630, substitute for House Bill 5519.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 284, substitute
for Senate Bill 290.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 103, Senate Bill 754.

Calendar 120, Senate Bill 818.

Calendar 136, Senate Bill 789.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 179, substitute for
Senate Bill 951.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 207, substitute for
Senate Bill 950.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 252, substitute for
Senate Bill 1068.

Calendar page 34, Calendar Number 420, Senate

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Bill 325.

And Calendar page 40, Calendar Number 541, House
Bill 6076.

Mr. President, that completes the items placed on
the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

On the first Consent Calendar, the machine is
open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to
the Chamber? The Senate is now voting by roll call on
the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return
to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Seeing that all
Senators have voted, the machine will be closed.
Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motions on adoption to the Consent Calendar,
number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36

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Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is adopted. Mr. Majority
Leader.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, a few
more items to be marked "go." First, Calendar page
29, Calendar 249, House Bill 6185. Calendar page 35,
Calendar 424, Senate Bill 1045. Calendar page 36,
Calendar 429, Senate Bill 940. Thank you, Mr.
President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to Calendar page 29, Calendar Number 249,
Files number 49 and 285, House Bill 6185, AN ACT
CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CERTAIN
PERSONNEL FILE STATUTES as amended by House Amendment,
Schedule "A". Favorably Reported, Committee on Labor
and Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

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Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 10

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill is passed in concurrence with the
Senate.

The House will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

The House will come back to order. Will the
Clerk please call Calendar Number 644.

THE CLERK:

On Page 21, Calendar Number 644, Senate Bill
Number 754, AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE
STATUTES REGARDING PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC
DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.
Favorable Report of the Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chair of the Public Health
Committee, Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (38th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report
and passage of the Bill in concurrence with that in
the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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The question is on passage in concurrence. Would you explain the Bill please, madam.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that before I move to discuss the Bill, I would like to, excuse me, ask the Clerk to please call an Amendment, LCO Number 5749. I would like to then be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5749 previously designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A". Will the Clerk kindly call the Amendment.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5749, Senate "A", offered by Senator Harris and Representative Ritter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentle woman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Hearing none, please proceed, Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Amendment strikes Section 3 of the underlying Bill and then continues to make technical changes to the statutes that were required by the Department.

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I would request adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark on Senate Amendment Schedule "A"? Will you remark on Senate Amendment Schedule "A"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Bill as adopted is a series of technical changes to the statutes that were requested by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I will briefly summarize them.

The Bill in Sections 1 and Sections 12 through 18 repeal duplicative statutory authority for the superintendent of Blue Hills Hospital to regulate the traffic on hospital grounds.

Already existing statute clearly authorizes the facility directors at this facility and all other DMHAS facilities to regulate that traffic.

Existing statute also continues to protect these state employees as they are at all the other DMHAS facilities.

Section 2 allows the DMHAS Commissioners to permit private physicians and psychiatrists, upon request by families and patients, to treat patients at DMHAS facilities. Current law requires the Commissioner to first adopt regulations before permitting such treatment.

Sections 3 through 11 update old statutory language referring to patients, facilities, psychiatric conditions, substance abuse and social workers, and I'll give a few examples.

These updates, for example, would replace the word inmate with patient, or the word institution with a hospital.

That's a brief summary of the Bill, and I would entertain any questions.

I should also ask that I would move adoption of the Bill as amended.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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We're already on that, Representative Ritter.

Thank you very much. The distinguished Ranking Member of the Public Health Committee from the best city in Connecticut, Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in support of this Amendment. It passed unanimously out of the Public Health Committee. It has no impact, fiscal impact to the state.

It provides more respective language as it applies to psychiatric patients and I urge my colleagues' support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam. Are you read for the question? If so, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

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

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Representative Fawcett, would you please vote. Thank you, ma'am. Have all the Members voted? Representative Merrill, will you please vote. Thank you, ma'am.

Have all the Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally.

And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 754 as amended by Senate "A" in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	142
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill as amended is passed in concurrence with the Senate.

Mr. Clerk, would you kindly call Calendar Number 628.

THE CLERK:

On Page 20, Calendar Number 628, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 785 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION

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are not too confused by all of that. And I'd like to ask our first speaker, Commissioner Kirk.

THOMAS A. KIRK, JR.: Good morning, Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, I'm Dr. Tom Kirk, the commissioner of the health care agency known as Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

I'm here today to speak in favor of two bills, House Bill 6262, An Act Concerning Regional Action Councils; and Senate Bill 754, An Act Concerning Technical Changes to the Statutes Regarding Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities and Substance Use Disorder.

Allow me to begin my remarks by thanking the committee for raising these bills, and for the opportunity, it gives me to speak about some of the difficult decisions we have been forced to make as a result of the current fiscal crisis facing Connecticut.

House Bill 6262. Under this one DMHAS would reconfigure the subregional model for subsidies planning through which we currently fund 14 regional action councils, and we reconfigure it to a five region model similar to that which we have used for over three decades for our mental health planning system.

This reconfiguration would enable us to devote more of our limited resources to prevention and treatment planning efforts at present while DMHAS funding supports -- basic DMHAS funding supports approximately 1.5 positions per RAC. An independent survey of RAC directors conducted by Holt, Wexler & Farnum indicates that in order for the RACs to meet DMHAS's expectations fully, up to three

funds are used in the most cost-effective manner possible requires that we rethink our way of doing things. I will be up before a program review recitation committee next week, February 10th, because based upon their review of our substance abuse system, they thought we needed a more comprehensive planning piece. A proposal on the table is going to help to reinforce and respond to the recommendations of program review and investigation.

I understand this is a complex issue. Many difficult choices the state will face over the next several years until the economy improves. This change will allow us to conserve funding for prevention and treatment planning and support and services to the growing population of Connecticut residents who need them, while reducing administrative overhead. We'll be happy to work, but the regional action council is the chief consensus on how best to transition to this model.

The second bill I want to comment on is Senate Bill 754. It makes a number of technical changes to our statutes. It would eliminate duplicative traffic regulation statutes, replace some offensive terminology to make the statutes more respectful of people we serve, and eliminate regulatory requirements for a statute that has been in existence for years but has never been invoked.

One of the -- we met with the cochairs prior to this, and one of the points we mentioned on this bill here is that in that bill the patients that we have in our facilities are, quote, inmates. People with psychiatric disabilities are not inmates, and that's the way the language is phrased here, and so that and some other changes we want the legislation -- the wording to be much more