

<b>Act Number:</b>	09-159	
<b>Bill Number:</b>	795	
<b>Senate Pages:</b>	3984-3989, 4108-4111	10
<b>House Pages:</b>	8737-8746	10
<b>Committee:</b>	None	0
	<b>Page Total:</b>	<b>20</b>

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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3984 - 4323**

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Thank you, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to calendar page 3, Calendar Number 278, File Number 351, Senate Bill 795, AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION, favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education. Clerk is in possession of three amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Handley.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

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

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval and passage of the bill, ma'am, would you like to remark further?

SENATOR HANDLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, the Clerk is in possession of LCO 8357. Would he call it and I be permitted to summarize?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

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LCO 8357, which will be designated as Senate Amendment Schedule A, is offered by Senator Handley of the 4th District.

THE CHAIR:

There is a motion on the floor for summarization.  
Seeing no objection --

SENATOR HANDLEY:

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

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, ma'am.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

The -- this amendment is in three parts, and I will explain two of the parts and then yield to Senator Maynard for the third part. The first part permits the Charter Oak College to under certain circumstances, provide graduate courses as well as undergraduate courses. The second part names a veterinary grant program at the University of Connecticut after a well-loved veterinarian, Dr. Kerr. And the third part of the amendment deals with changes which needed to be made in light of the passage of a post-9/11 GI Bill, in order to provide tuition payments for returning veterans.

I would yield to explain that to Senator Maynard.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Maynard, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

The third portion is rather technical, but in brief, it brings each of the higher education college units, the community colleges, the University of Connecticut, and the Connecticut State University colleges all into the statutes with respect to veterans' benefits; it brings them into accord with new post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

I just want to say that -- I don't think the Senate is interested in all the specific details, but I can tell you it was through a great deal of effort, and I want to thank Gail Garber from UConn, Jill Ferraiolo from CSU, the Connecticut State University System, Meghan -- from the Community Colleges -- Meghan Collins from the Community Colleges, and Jean Schrigleo, for their very hard work in getting this ironed out, it was not an easy task, the language is rather dense. And I'm very appreciative also of

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Senator Handley, Representative Willis and their LCO, Amy LaChance, for all the work that went into getting this squared away.

It allows our Connecticut veterans to benefit in the maximum degree possible from all the educational opportunities afforded to them, several of which we here are responsible for, but also of those which the federal government has now made available. So thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm happy to answer any questions.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate A?

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just standing briefly in support of the bill. I think this is a very well-crafted bill by Senator Handley and Senator Maynard, that it's all about increasing access. The first part of the bill that Senator Handley described, in terms of us now offering graduate courses at Charter Oak State College will enable more people to continue on their education who have received their baccalaureate in a cost-effective manner, and Senator

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Maynard just described increasing access for our veterans to go to Connecticut colleges. I think both of these are admirable goals and are reflected in some well-crafted legislation. I would urge adoption of the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on Senate A? Will you remark further?

Senator Handley, for the second time.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

Thank you. If there is no objection --

THE CHAIR:

We have to do a voice vote on the amendment first, ma'am.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

Oh, I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

That's quite all right.

All those in favor signify by saying, aye.

VOICES:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, nay.

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The ayes have it, Senate A is adopted.

Senator Handley.

SENATOR HANDLEY:

If there's no objection, Mr. President, I would ask that this bill be put on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any further discussion on Senate Bill 795 as amended by Senate A?

If not, there is a motion on the floor to place this item on the Consent.

Without objection, so ordered, ma'am.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 516, File Number 753, Substitute for Senate Bill 838, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT, favorable report of the Committee on General Law, Judiciary, and Appropriations. Clerk is in possession of amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Colapietro.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

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calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to remove item from the foot and put on pass retain.

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thanks, Mr. President. Mr. President, if we might call the items on the Consent Calendar at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to the chamber. 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 Consent Calendar begin on calendar page 2, Calendar Number 278, Senate Bill 795.

Calendar page 5 -- correction, calendar page 23, Calendar Number 115, Substitute for Senate Bill 80.

Calendar page 26, Calendar Number 260, Substitute for Senate Bill 823.

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Calendar page 29, Calendar 310, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 887.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 332, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1086.

Calendar page 33, Calendar 428, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 850.

Calendar page 34, Calendar 449, Senate Bill 1110.

Calendar page 35, Calendar 470, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1126.

Calendar page 36, Calendar 497, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1090.

Calendar page 37, Calendar 511, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 455; calendar 516, Substitute for Senate  
Bill 838; and Calendar page 40, Calendar 558,  
Substitute for Senate Bill 1063.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed  
on the Consent Calendar, but there may be a  
correction.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is open if you'd like to vote.

THE CLERK:

Mr. President, there are two other items to be  
placed on the calendar.

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Please stand by.

THE CLERK:

On calendar page 2, Calendar 129, Senate Bill 775,  
and Calendar 159, Senate Bill 938.

Mr. President, I believe that completes the items  
to be placed (inaudible).

THE CHAIR:

Please call for a roll call vote.

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 Senators voted?

Senator Prague? Senator Prague?

If all Senators have voted, please check your  
vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call  
the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar  
Number 1.

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Total Number Voting	36
Those Voting Yea	36
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent/Not Voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar 1 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President.  
Another item to mark as go from the list of items  
previously marked passed temporarily. It's on  
calendar page 31, Calendar 380, Senate Bill 1050.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to calendar page 31, Calendar Number 380,  
Substitute for Senate Bill 1050, AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMIC DETAILING PROGRAM,  
favorable report of the Committee on Public Health and  
Higher Education. Clerk is in possession of  
amendments.

Senator Coleman of the 2nd in the Chair.

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appropriate of us to take a moment from our debates  
just to have a moment of silence in honor of those who  
died in a honor of their families and their pains.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Request has been for a moment of silence.

Thank you, Representative Noujaim. Any other  
announcements or points of personal privilege? If  
not, we'll return to the call of the calendar. Would  
the Clerk please call Calendar 675.

THE CLERK:

On Page 23, Calendar 675, Senate Bill Number 795,  
AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION, favorable report  
by the Committee on Higher Education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Willis of the 64th District, you  
have the floor, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to see  
you this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I move for the joint  
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill  
in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

To question his acceptance of the joint

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committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate. Please proceed, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill covers three separate higher education issues. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has a strikeall amendment, LCO 8357. I ask that he call it and that I receive permission to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8357, which previously had been designated as Senate A.

THE CLERK:

LCO 8357, Senate A offered by Senator Handley.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize the amendment. Without objection, please proceed, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Section 1 and 2 of the bill concerning the establishment of a new graduate program at the Charter Oak State College. Section 3 of the bill concern the naming of the veterinary medicine program at the University of

Connecticut after the esteemed and beloved Dean Kirkland Kerr. Dr. Kerr is the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and I believe that the program for veterinary students was established by this body in 2007 -- was largely due to his support.

He has had a 40 year career, which he has worked practicing -- as a practicing veterinarian and as a faculty member and administrative -- administrator in land grant university system. With our generous support, Dr. Kerr has been able to establish funding of the Connecticut Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Lab, a state resource House at the University. And he's expanded services to many of our constituents throughout the state including a mobile pickup service for large animal diagnostic work. Dr. Kerr has explored a variety of options in recent years to strengthen our state's workforce and to provide us with more trained veterinarians that we do not -- and we do not have a veterinarian school so it was very critical that we established, again, once again, a reciprocal veterinary program at the Iowa State University. To that and, I am very pleased and proud to stand before you and urge us to name this program after him.

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Sections 4 and 9 of the amendment concern the revisions of Connecticut's statutes so that our veterans, who served after the terrorists attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, can take advantage of the new post 911 GI bill benefits. I move for this adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on Senate A? Further on Senate A?  
Representative Willis, further on Senate A?

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Yes. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague about the esteemed Chairman of the Veterans Committee, Representative Graziani to speak about the veterans waiver section of this bill. Thank you very much, sir.

REP. ALTOBELLO (82nd):

By that I can -- may I infer that you're done commenting on Senate A, madam?

REP. WILLIS (64th):

That is correct.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

Representative Sawyer of the 55th District, you have before, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, my apologies. I believe she yielded the floor to Representative Graziani.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

She attempted to. You have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would yield the floor to Representative Graziani.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Graziani of the 57th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. GRAZIANI (57th):

Yes. I will accept the yield. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

There is no yield, sir. You have the floor, Representative Graziani.

REP. GRAZIANI (57th):

Oh, thank you very much. I did that purposely to get everybody's attention. By the way, I want to

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thank -- this was a collaborated effort, the post 911 new GI bill and how it would affect us. And number one, it wasn't an easy thing to do. By that I mean we had to have several meetings, including the state university system, the community college, UConn, the chief financial officers and the like. Or Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Linda Schwartz was part of the discussion as well as John Wilsey.

What this does, basically ladies and gentlemen, gives our Connecticut National Guard and reserves the option of utilizing our state benefit, state tuitional format first before the new GI bill, federal for later on. In other words, they can get their associate's and even their graduate degree if they, under the state provision and then move on and utilize the 911 GI bill.

And by the way the new GI bill has now a 15 year period. In the past, we had ten years. Now we have 15 years to utilize what the federal government has opposed to us. And more importantly, it leaves the veteran out of the responsibility of getting a check and then turning it over to the universities or community technical colleges. The new GI bill will automatically reimburse the higher educational

institutions. And this is a major step because there's less work that our veterans, in fact, have to do.

And you know what? With the war on global terrorism going on and on, this in fact acts as a retaining tool, a retention tool, if you will for our Connecticut National Guard and Reserve. So therefore, I ask that this amendment be adopted, so we could help our veteran population as well as our Connecticut National Guard and Reserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you very much, Representative Graziani.

Representative Sawyer of the 55th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I apologize for the confusion before. Certainly we look at education for our veterans as being one of the gifts that we can give back. Mr. Speaker, there have been changes on the federal level and this is one of the things that we have chosen to do to address those changes.

We also look at the veterinarian program, one that Connecticut does not have, that the veterinarian school was never established in Connecticut and we

looked at finding ways to find places for students to go. Connecticut is in a great shortage of veterinarians, particularly large animal veterinarians, Mr. Speaker, and the large animals in Connecticut, as we discussed the other day, where horses, we have more courses per capita than any other nation -- any other state in the nation. It's getting to be a very growing dilemma for us and the funding has certainly not been there to establish a school in Connecticut and there's so few in the country that we've been working at setting up a situation where students in Connecticut can go to another university with our support and our sponsorship.

That is not in this bill, however, but it has been something that we have talked about in the past. I hope that comes back in the future and we find a way to solve that dilemma, but at the present time what this does for the veterans, I think, Mr. Speaker is something that is something that we owe them and I believe it is a very positive step forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Sawyer. Further on the bill as amended? No? Let's see. Senate A, I think

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is on the board. Further on Senate A? Further on Senate A? If not, I'll me try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended? Further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests, please retire to the well of the House. Members take your seats.

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voted by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? If all members voted, please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally. And would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 795, as amended by Senate A, in

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concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Bill as amended by Senate A is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 283.

THE CLERK:

On Page 35, Calendar 283, substitute for House  
Bill Number 6649, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROGRAMS AND  
ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
favorable report by the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Guerrero of the 29th District, you  
have the floor this afternoon, sir.

REP. GUERRERA (29th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move  
acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report  
and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the chamber's acceptance of  
the joint committee's favorable report and passage of