

**Act Number:** 09-001 (June 19 Sp. Sess.)

**Bill Number:** 6901

**Senate Pages:** 6263-6297 **35**

**House Pages:** 10536-10554 **19**

**Committee:** None **0**

**Page Total:** **54**

**S – 596**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

**JUNE  
JUNE 19  
SPECIAL  
SESSIONS  
VETO  
SESSION**

**VOL. 52  
PART 20  
6204 – 6522**

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Emergency Certified House Bill 6901.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, if you can call House Bill Number  
6901.

THE CLERK:

Calling from Senate Agenda Number 3, Emergency  
Certified Bill 6901, LCO 9473, AN ACT CONCERNING  
EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND OTHER EDUCATION ISSUES. Bill is accompanied by  
Emergency Certification signed Donald E. Williams Jr,  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Christopher G.  
Donovan, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move  
passage of the Emergency Certified Bill in concurrence  
with the House.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr.  
President, this bill is very, very similar to a bill

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that we had before us two other times during the regular session.

One time it passed 36 to nothing, unanimous approval in the Senate, go down to the House. The House made some changes. Came back up to the Senate on the last day of session, as we all know, and did not pass that evening.

The major change in the bill before us today, from what we voted on unanimously in the past session, is that the high school reform initiative, which a lot of folks, including the commissioner and members of the business community, labor community, members of the education committee worked very, very hard on. That provision has been excised from this LCO that's currently before you because of budgetary concerns and the fact that we are in tight fiscal times. And although the cost we'll put onto the out years, we've found it to be prudent to put this off for another session.

Mr. President, this is the major education bill of the year. It is the first comprehensive rewrite of teacher certification law since the Teacher Enhancement Act passed in 1986. It really opens up the door to teaching in Connecticut. It does away

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with a lot of the red tape for people who are seeking to be teachers in Connecticut.

In particular, those teachers that are from other states that are highly qualified, that have years of service at teaching in other states that have comparable, high quality standards that Connecticut has, this will allow those teachers to come into Connecticut and to teach in Connecticut, which is very important, particularly in the shortage areas that we have in Connecticut in math and science and world languages for instance. We need this type of open door for people who are seeking to come into teaching.

It also is a major assist for the alternative route to certification process for organizations such as Teach for America, which has had outstanding success here in this state of Connecticut. For young people who want to become teachers and go through the alternative route to certification, teach in our inner cities and wind up becoming fully certified teachers and then part of our public school system and launching a career in education.

There are reciprocity of teacher certification language in this bill with other states. Superintendent Adamowski from Hartford, for instance,

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was very high on recommending that we make it easier for superintendents in this state to recruit teachers from other states and this bill accomplishes that.

Mr. Chairman, we also make a change for adjunct art instructors, so that people that are -- have particular talent in art and expertise in the arts are able to go into our arts magnet schools and offer their knowledge and expertise to these students that are attending those arts magnet school.

Mr. President, I had gone into a very length description of this bill in the prior sections. I think people are pretty familiar with it, so with that description Mr. President, I would ask for the chamber's vote and passage of the bill. Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? Senator Caligiuri.

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you, Mr. President. If I may, I have a question or two through you, to Senator Gaffey, please.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

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Please proceed.

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you, Mr. President, I -- if Senator Gaffey, if you summarized what the differences were, I'm sorry for missing that, but you said this was substantially similar to what was enacted towards the end of the session. Through you, Mr. President, would Senator Gaffey please summarize what the changes are that were made in this?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Yes, Mr. President. In addition to the high school reform piece which has a -- which was amended out down in the House after we had passed it unanimously up here, the other difference that was in the bill on the last night of the session before this chamber, but is now not in this bill, was a piece to do with the district of Granby. And former -- a former language in the bill which would have allowed them to adjourn school, I believe, this coming Friday, if in fact they had full days for that whole week. Through you, Mr. President.

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Senator Caligiuri.

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Thank you, Mr. President. And I thank Senator Gaffey for that response and I rise as a supporter ultimately of the bill but if I may, a follow-up question.

Can Senator Gaffey explain why that provision has been taken out of the bill? I know that it was important to some members of the chamber and we obviously, at one point, thought that it was legitimate to do it as that provision provided as a matter of public policy or else, we wouldn't have voted for it once before. And through you, Mr. President, does Senator Gaffey know why this was taken out, and if so, what is the reason? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you to Senator Caligiuri, I absolutely do know the reason why it was taken out and it just comes down, basically, to timing.

If we had passed the language that was before the

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Senate on the last night of the session, Wednesday the 3rd, the Granby School District would have had time to notify parents of what the schedule is going to be.

Since that time and in fact Mr. President, our -- our staff were in contact with the Granby school district just this morning to make certain what their plans were. And they have already made plans for half day sessions through this week, into next week and then on, I believe, the following two days to close out the school year and also to accommodate the legal requirement of 180 days. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Caligiuri.

SENATOR CALIGIURI:

Mr. President, thank you. And I thank Senator Gaffey for that response and I look forward to supporting the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark?

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I -- I really want to congratulate Senator Gaffey and the Education Committee on -- on this bill. We're doing a couple of

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really significant things here.

We're taking advantage of the certification of teachers from other states, which have at least the equivalent component of certification that we have here in Connecticut. We live in a country in which professionals, particularly teachers, move between states. This will enable us to capture some of the best and brightest teachers from other states.

Secondly we're going into the very interesting area of alternative forms of certification. People in this circle would not have to go through, necessarily, the long certification process. Our own life experience could be given some credit. Teach for America teachers will be able to be included in this and what a difference they've made in the cities of our country.

The only thing that I think Senator Gaffey was implying is, as well, that it's a disappointment and I hope we'll come back to it next year, is the dropping of the high school reforms. I think so many of us believe after looking at the achievement gap in Connecticut, the big difference between achievement of suburban students and urban students, that one of the major ways to overcome that achievement gap will be by

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setting stronger high school standards.

The bill as passed originally by the Senate did that. It set down credits to get a high school diploma, it set down curriculum to get a high school diploma, it toughened up the standards, the academic standards. And those standards were implemented in the cities of our state, I dare say, like in other states, the achievement gap would have been greatly reduced. But on balance this is a great bill and I'm very pleased to support it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President I was not going to rise to make any statement on this particular bill, I think we're all supportive of it and want to see it passed, however the previous speaker's comments did touch on a point that I think bares repeating.

That we have always considered ourselves to be the education state and in my 12 or 13 years here, I was able to watch it rise to number one in the country for several years in a row, something to be truly

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proud of. But in the last few years, we have seen our high position be eroded. And the trend line has been going in a more negative direction and I think that very legislation that is not included in this particular bill would have gone a long way to helping us reach those heights once again, that we set a very high standard and we make a very strong statement.

It is my sincere hope that it will indeed come back again and that we don't shirk from our responsibilities, even times that are this difficult, economically. In fact, it's these times that we most need to embrace our educational standards in quality. And I like repeating this all the time, because in my travels up and down these highways I've listened to books on tape and the one that resonates with me constantly and I repeat it all the time in my district is Booker T. Washington's statement, that education industrious as a self reliance, but particularly education is the best hope and best prospects for our people. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Boucher.

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

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Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President I would like to join in with Senator Meyer and Senator Boucher and thank Senator Gaffey for bringing this out. Once again, this bill is exceeding important to make sure that we have these alternative roots to certification.

It's a bipartisan bill with broad support and unfortunately, on the last night of session we weren't able to get it passed because we did have a lot of questions coming from the change in the House, which were some pretty significant changes at the end of the day.

So I wanted to thank the majority for bringing this back out again. We will be hopefully passing this unanimously today. It's an important bill for Connecticut. I'm proud to support it and thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President. One of the great disappointments of my first session was during the last maybe ten or 15 minutes and seeing this particular bill get lost in the shuffle. So Senator

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Gaffey, I'm happy to see it back here, in fact, very relieved when I found out today that this was going to be in front of us.

And I do rise in great support of this bill, in particular the component of it that calls for the easing of restrictions on teacher qualifications. Anybody who's ever been in a school that has had a Teach for America teacher in it, whether it's a magnet school, normal -- ordinary school, or a charter school, knows the magic of some of these younger people and what kind of energy and passion that they bring to the classroom. It sets an example for everybody throughout, not only the state of Connecticut, but throughout the entire country. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark? Will you remark further?

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Through you, a couple of questions to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

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SENATOR KISSEL:

Senator, obviously I'm quite disappointed as to what took place at the end of the regular session regarding the matter regarding the Granby schools and in particular, the Wells Road Intermediate School. In your colloquy with Senator Caligiuri, you had indicated that you had spoken to representatives of the Granby Public School System even as early as -- or even as recently as this morning. Is -- is that my understanding? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. No Senator, it wasn't I who spoke to them, it was staff from our Office of Legislative Research spoke to the Granby district.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much. And obviously, the superintendent of schools from Granby has been asking for myself and Senator Witkos as well as Representative Hornish down in the House, to keep him apprized as to what was taking place and they were

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very hopeful.

And I want to thank Senator Gaffey for his cooperation and working with us to try to remedy the problem that was engendered by the fact that that school had to close for five days due to the fact that a young lady there had the H1N1 virus.

Is it my understanding, through you, Mr. President, that the representatives through Senator -- good Senator's staff, has made representations that they had been informed, and I'm one of the ones that informed them, that as recently as last week it didn't look like there was going to be any solution to this and that they've taken steps towards moving forward to the end of their school year with the notion that they would not have a legislative remedy passed by this Legislature. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gaffey.

SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you, sir, to Senator Kissel, that is correct, Senator. And in fact, they've scheduled all the days through next week as half days and into the next following Monday and Tuesday, I believe it is, and that schedule has been

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set, the parents were notified, and they were -- did this, I'm sure, because of they were aware that there wouldn't be a legislative remedy and there were news accounts to that fact and made plans accordingly, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much. And for what it's worth, I know I signed the amendment just about 15 minutes ago, 94 -- LCO 9487, I don't know if the Clerk's in possession of that amendment at this time. I'd like the Clerk to please call that LCO, please.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calling LCO 9487, which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule A. It's offered by Senator Witkos of the 8th district, Senator Kissel of the 7th district.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I move adoption of the amendment, ask leave to summarize.

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THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor for summarization of adoption. Without objection, so ordered. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. And when we do vote on that I'd ask that it be on roll.

THE CHAIR:

A roll call vote will be ordered, sir.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much. Just to summarize what essentially this amendment does is it puts back into the underlying bill that portion that if -- that affected the town of Granby.

I have no doubts that the town of Granby has taken steps to plan out the fact that this particular piece of legislation wouldn't pass, but here we are, with a week to go in the school year and we're about to act on a bill that had this as one of its components.

And indeed, my recollection is is that this portion of the underlying bill passed through this chamber at least once unanimously with the support of the cochair of the Education Committee. And that

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indeed, even though the House had problems with the underlying bill, that the House did pass up the exact same bill absent other portions of the underlying bill, but this matter was intact as well. I don't recall that there were any no votes in the House of Representatives, so I believe either the House passed this component unanimously or -- as well.

Fundamentally I just want it on the record that while there has been some who have argued eloquently that we should not deviate from the 180 day requirement for our public schools, that in an exceptional situation, public health would have to be a consideration when it comes to addressing how our public schools are going to proceed. I think it's important to send that message that when there is a potentiality for a huge health risk, such as the one posed by the H1N1 influenza virus, that there should be no impediments to a public school taking all due precautions, such as what happened in the town of Granby.

They shut down the school and they cleaned it from top to bottom. And we wanted them to do that. And it was at the end of the school year and it was after they had used up their five allocated days as

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snow days, but clearly they acted with the knowledge that the public health came first. The health of the children came first. And it being an intermediate school, we're talking about third graders, fourth graders, fifth graders and sixth graders.

What's really scary to me is since we were unable to get this legislation through the regular session, I have seen, and the news accounts attest to the fact that people have died in the state of Connecticut because of this virus. I believe, and it's very sad, that I believe that three of the deaths occurred in the greater Waterbury area. I believe, and it's equally as sad that one of those deaths occurred to a young person, very similar in age to the age of the school children in Granby.

It's my understanding that the virus has not completely evaded and that someone, I believe between the ages of 30 and 50, although not identified but in Hartford county, passed away just this week. And I've also read accounts that the influenza virus at this time could be dormant and could rise up again in the fall and that that is a serious consideration. It is my understanding that if one reads the accounts, as this virus spreads throughout the world, that it is a

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-- it is up in the air right now as to whether this is officially a pandemic or not.

But as I had indicated in promoting this issue not that long ago, the great influenza pandemic that hit this nation in 1918, directly affected my ancestors in an extraordinarily negative way in the city of Philadelphia. And I can tell you that with that pandemic, it also came forward in the summer time but very, very moderately and that it was in the months of the early fall, and then it struck with a vengeance.

I certainly hope that's not the case here in the state of Connecticut or anywhere in the United States, or on this planet, but I feel that on balance, while I absolutely respect those that advocate that there should be at no deviation from the 180 day school requirement, that I think that by passage of this amendment, the signal that we're saying is that public health and the lives of our young people will trump. And that if a school system is faced with these difficult decisions, the State of Connecticut will understand if they take it upon themselves to shut a school down.

And if the question is, do we shut it down for

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two days and do the best we can or do we shut it down for a week and scrub that school from top to bottom? Every doorknob, every locker, every book, every window, then I want the school chiefs in our state to know, go above and beyond to make sure that facility is safe.

And so I do believe that should this amendment pass and this matter can be sent right back down to the house for immediate action, that it won't be establishing anything that we didn't carefully consider earlier on in the regular legislative session. It sends exactly the right message, not just to the people of the town of Granby, but to people throughout the state of Connecticut, that we can do it and I do believe that this legislation will be signed by the Governor such that it will have an impact on the people of the town of Granby.

And for those reasons Mr. President, I strongly support this amendment and ask my colleagues to vote as you did just a few weeks ago and support this. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further?

Senator Gaffey.

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SENATOR GAFFEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I mentioned when I described the bill and the changes to the bill the reason why this section which was previously in the bill, that we had before us on the night of June 3rd, would not be in the bill today was because of time.

I will point out that the amendment that Senator Kissel has put before us right now, states that school days on June 19th to June 26th inclusive, should be full days and the last school session shall be held on June 26th. Today is June 19th. Today the Granby school district, at this school, had a half day. So, this amendment doesn't work. The Granby school district already carefully considered the fact that there was no legislative remedy and they made their plans which included a half day today. So the reality of what happened today is contrary to what the amendment says before us right now.

I would also add, this is not a matter of public health. The underlying concern that caused the amendment to be brought forward was the fact that the school was shut down because of H1N1. But the fact of the matter is this is a matter of a legal requirement

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of children attending school 180 days in the state of Connecticut.

I will also point out that the Granby school district never, not once, made application to the State Board of Education for wavier from this requirement, which they were legally entitled to do. So for those reasons, Mr. President, that the amendment, number one, is flawed, and number two, their schedules are already set, parents are already notified and the school administrators and teachers are already set on the schedule for half days from today through the end of the school year. That the -- that I oppose this amendment and ask for a roll call vote. Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark?

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Also in brief opposition, Mr. President, to this amendment with compliments to Senator Kissel for trying to help his constituents as he views the best interest. But reducing the school year to below 180 days is really not good for our students. We have actually the lowest -- we have -- we have the shortest

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school year of every industrialized country on the planet Earth.

We have the longest summer vacation of any country in the world. Reducing the length of the school year should be done only in circumstances that are much more different than what we have here. And so I really urge that we preserve 180 day school year. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on Senate Amendment A? Will you remark further?

If not, Mr. Clerk please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

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Motion on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule

A.

Total number voting	35
Those Voting Yea	8
Those Voting Nay	27
Those Absent and Not Voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Amendment A fails.

Will you remark further on House Bill 6901?

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I just want to go on record as a former school teacher, supporting the issue of the high school reform matter. I just think it's about time we took a look at the requirements to graduate from high school and bring those standards up.

We have too many young people getting out of high school who go on to a college freshman class some place that have to take remedial courses. So I'm in complete support of the high school reform part of the bill which unfortunately was deleted in the House. I hope that will come back next year as a separate piece of legislation.

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I think we do all of our young people a favor, all of them, by making the standards higher, by helping them achieve better goals and bringing them up to a level where they can get the very most out of their secondary experience.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. On the underlying bill, I want to commend Senator Gaffey for moving this forward. I think that it was probably really well thought out that we availed ourselves of this Special Session to move forward on this because I do believe in the merits of the underlying bill.

We are going to be facing a large teacher shortage. We've -- we're already struggling with our nursing shortage. In fact, there's a whole slew of areas that probably, in the next five to ten years, as our population gets older with the fastest growing age group being those 80 and older, that we're going to be struggling looking for people to make sure our society can actually function. And one of the areas that we absolutely have to make sure is well stocked with people that are excited to do their jobs is education.

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It is not a profession that one typically goes to to get rich. Talk to the teachers in my district. They're not going to tell you that they went into it to get rich. And in fact, if we can try to make it a little less bureaucratic and burdensome regarding some of the paperwork requirements we've gone a long way.

But anything we can do, as a State, to attract excited young people, even if they may not necessarily have the exact qualifications of going to one of our great schools of higher education to study to be a teacher, as I was lucky enough to do once upon a time and I actually went and then did something else. But I was excited at one point in my life, went to UConn, did my student teaching at Coventry High School.

Teaching is an exciting field, and so people may, and in the middle of their career, want to get into teaching. And maybe they have some experiences that we can draw from.

What we are looking for is we're looking to try, to create an environment in the state of Connecticut where people who are excited to teach young people are not pushed away, but are attracted into the field. We can't afford, as a State, to loose anyone. And for those reasons, Mr. President, I strongly support the

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underlying bill and I'm happy to vote in support of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on Senate Bill -- sorry, House Bill 6901? Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the bill and just wanted to briefly touch on a couple of subjects that my colleagues have already referenced.

First, I did want to acknowledge the comments earlier by Senator Kissel and acknowledge his support for the Granby school district. I think the bottom line is any one of us would have done the same things for our school districts. And any one of our school districts would have asked for that same help. I recall when we had to close an entire elementary school for the better part of a whole school year in Fairfield, and kids were bused to different schools and they made due.

The reason I wanted to reference that is though while no one can blame Senator Kissel or the Granby school district for fighting to get the school year

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over with, I think we ought to acknowledge that we ought to ask ourselves, why are we talking about that? And we have 180 due day school requirement. If we had the political will and the resources, and it would take resources, we should have a 210 or a 220 day school year.

And yes, maybe there would be vacations for the 4th of July, but maybe we wouldn't be so concerned about ending the school year when we do because quite frankly, for our future to compete with the world, we need our kids in school probably more than they already are.

Which leads me also to the references by the high school reforms which have been taken out and what Senator Prague and Senator Meyer mentioned. I know Senator Gaffey has worked hard on that, but those are reforms that we need to do in the future.

And we also ought to think outside the box about even additional reforms. Maybe certain kids, because of their ability and industriousness, can graduate high school in three years rather than four and that will allow them to go to college earlier. And those are some of the reforms that we can talk about doing as well.

There was also mention of the teacher reciprocity. I'm not sure what took us so long to do that with teachers certified in other states that have standards similar to ours.

And lastly I -- I didn't want to let this debate go by without referencing Teach for America, was talked about in our charter schools. It is -- and we've talked about this in the circle before and I think all of us are in agreement, but it is nothing less than remarkable what is happening at our charter schools. When you look at whether its Amistad or any charter school around the state of the Connecticut, the biggest problem we have, I think, as a society in the state of Connecticut, is our achievement gap. And the fact that certain people in our society don't get an equal education. And they have proven beyond doubt that these charter schools that matter -- no matter who you are, no matter what the color of your skin is, no matter what socioeconomic status you come from, that you can -- you can succeed.

And the kids at Amistad who come from New Haven do just as well, in fact, better than the kids from my town of Fairfield. So they have -- they have shattered the myth of the achievement gap and we, as a

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State, need to do everything in our power to make sure that that achievement gap is totally erased. Because the only way we will succeed as a State and as a nation is if every single kid, regardless of what their circumstances are, gets that same education that all of our kids get.

And so I rise in support of this and more importantly, I actually look forward to next year working on additional reforms. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further?  
Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, speaking in support of the bill. Would certainly like to first begin by commending Senator Gaffey for all of his hard work and leadership in this area throughout the session, and bringing the bill before us, both then and now.

There are so many important elements of this bill. Many of them were touched on by Senator McKinney and Senator Meyer and others. The alternative certification requirement is absolutely

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critical to get people who have distinguished achievements in other fields who want to be able to come into our schools and teach.

The empowerment brought by Teach for America, the very gifted young people who come into our schools under that program, and sometimes discover that they want to make a permanent career of it and they -- be -- add leaven to the system that brings a level of gifts and advocacy that might not otherwise have been associated with our public schools. So all of that is necessary and the -- this bill provides for the flexibility in terms of credentialing for that purpose.

Senator McKinney accurately mentioned the significance of our charter schools, like Amistad in New Haven. And they are -- were very concerned that this bill pass in a timely manner because of issues related to gifted teachers who were on their faculty that needed this bill in order to continue to be able to teach there.

And again, as was mentioned, what is the secret of a successful school like Amistad and Elm City and some of the others? It is support for the aspirations of the children enrolled in that school and their

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families. The idea that the eighth graders are not talking about graduation from eighth grade and not talking about high school graduation. The class of 2009 from grammar school is talking about being the class of 2017 from college. That is they are looking ahead to that. There are college pennants in every classroom there.

So they are looking ahead to a quality completed university education. And that's what we need to, support that aspiration for all of our children who have that aspiration.

So we have another significant section of the bill, Mr. President, is in -- contained in section 11, that deals with the adjunct arts instructor provision. That is a critical provision for schools like the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven and others who have talented artists, many of whom are on university faculties, who also teach part-time at schools like ECA, in need of this provision to be able to continue.

So for many reasons, Mr. President, this is a very important bill. It's something that we should all celebrate the passage of today. Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support the bill, to thank Senator Gaffey and all those who were instrumental in bringing this before the Chamber, again, today. And in summary, not to recite everything that's been said before, but to say simply that this advances the cause and quality of public education in the state of Connecticut and it's good that we take this action today. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on House Bill 6901? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate, will all Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate, will all Senators please return to the chamber.

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THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? 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 passage of Emergency Certified Bill 6901.

Total Number Voting	35
Those Voting Yea	35
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent/Not Voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move for suspension for immediate transmittal to the Governor of Emergency Certified House Bill 6901.

THE CHAIR:

There is a motion on the floor to send House Bill 6901 down to the House.

SENATOR LOONEY:

No, Mr. President, to the Governor.

THE CHAIR:

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I'm sorry? Oh, to the Governor, I'm sorry.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

She wasn't here, I didn't want to send it there -- to the Governor, House Bill 6901. Without objection, so ordered, sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, I would move that. I think this is a bill of great importance and would move that immediate -- for suspension for immediate transmittal.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, it will be sent, sir.

At this time, we'll entertain points of personal privilege or announcements.

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. For a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. I missed the vote

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

**JUNE 19  
JUNE SPECIAL  
SESSIONS**

**VOL.52  
PART 33  
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Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified  
Bill Number 6901.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill Number 6901, AN ACT  
CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER EDUCATION ISSUES, LCO Number  
9473.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move passage of the  
emergency certified bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on passage of the emergency  
certified bill. Will you remark?

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bill  
before us should be familiar to members of the chamber  
because it is identical to something we passed out of  
this very room on June 2nd of this year. It was then  
called Senate Bill 939.

And the measure that's before us is in every way  
identical to that previous bill as it was amended by  
Senate A and House A. In other words, this matches up

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exactly with that previous bill as amended by Senate A and House A section by section. So I'll be happy to answer any questions, but in terms of the substance, I would certainly encourage people to look at transcripts from June 2nd and prior dates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions through you to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Fleischmann, I thank you for clarifying that this bill is in every respect identical to the bill, I believe, we eventually passed out of this chamber during the regular session.

I must say however, that in the preparation of today's session, there was a lot of back and forth with regard to this bill and I have a couple of

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questions so you can further clarify the fact this is the same bill we voted on. Through you, Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that in the regular session, when this bill came before us, that there was a discussion or a provision with regard to the Town of Granby and how many days they can stay in session, because they had a swine flu issue, et cetera.

Am I incorrect in that, and that I could stand corrected -- was that in the previous bill and in this bill or not in the previous bill and not in this bill? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it was in the previous bill and it is in this bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, and through you, Mr. Speaker, are there any other towns that were similarly affected by the swine flu closures that are also mentioned in this bill? In other words, allowing them to shorten their school year to 178 days rather than 180. Through you,

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Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, in this bill, is there a provision with regard to the Wright Technical School in Stamford Connecticut and a working relationship with Norwalk Community College? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, was that same provision included in the bill that we passed out of this chamber during regular session? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. And through you, Mr. Speaker, with regard to that clause, it's my understanding that it simply says that an arrangement can be made in the future between JM Wright Technical School and Norwalk Community college, which you would allow college credits, if you will, to be given to students of JM Wright Technical School if they meet certain requirements and pass the course, et cetera. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing in

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this bill again, with regard to JM Wright Technical School that talks or references its continued existence funding, therefore, where the land goes, who owns it, whether it's going to have its operations suspended or what have you. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

That is correct. And in fact, the section explicitly states that anything that is to roll forward would happen within available resources. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the gentleman for his answer.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you care to remark further? Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick question through you to the chairman of the committee.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

In quick -- doing a quick look at this bill, because I just received it. My apologies.

Does it now the towns to amend their adopted budgets to reduce their appropriations by the amount of funding their local or regional boards could receive from the federal stimulus money? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if a municipality had failed to account for those dollars when initially budgeting, that they're given latitude to make the adjustment up to the amount of the stimulus dollars. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Then would that -- so you're referring to the stimulus dollars that would be used to supplant educational dollars. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. The education stabilization fund dollars, that would actually end up supplanting ECS dollars in this case. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

And what would be the mechanism, sir, through you, Mr. Speaker, in the instance where a town has already passed their budget, they have the dollars already put in place. People expect their tax dollars to be going to XY and Z program -- what would be the process within the town for them to make those adjustments? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that's governed by local charter. What we simply do is give municipalities, in the situation, a latitude they wouldn't normally have, mainly, to go ahead and make

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budget amendments and changes this late in the year.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the gentleman for that answer.

In the case where you have a town that has not yet passed a budget because it has filled in through referendum and they would -- a town would then have to, or would want to readjust their budget. That would be through the typical process in which the town uses, currently, through the charter process in building their budget, because it has not yet passed. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. I believe that's correct.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I would like to thank the gentleman for his

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answer because this has been a worry, I know, to many of the towns in how they would be able to handle these appropriations. I thank you, sir.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the second time, a further clarification of a question I previously asked to Representative Fleischmann. Through you, sir.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, Representative Fleischmann, you indicated before when I asked the question with regard to the Granby school system, that the provision which allowed them to shorten their school year to 170 days with -- pertaining, or as a result of the swine flu closure that they had, is in this budget. Could the gentleman direct me what section that would be in? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

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REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm not finding it in the bill. May I say, I had believed that it was in the measure, but I -- so let me correct myself.

It appears that my first answer to you was erroneous and my apologies, things do happen quickly. Let me also share that the dates in question are dates in June. And even if that section were to be included in this measure, if you look at the time it takes for a bill to go from the Legislature to the Governor's desk to signature to becoming a public act, even were it included today, it would be too late to make any difference for the affected school.

So I first want to apologize for my erroneous answer. I hadn't realized the section was out of the bill, but I want to say in terms of real-world impacts, I don't believe its lack of inclusion actually has any, because the bill would have been too late. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that's an important part. I -- especially for those that

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represent the Town of Granby, that the original bill that we passed out of this chamber had a provision in it that dealt with allowing the Town of Granby to shorten their school year to 178 days in recognition of the fact that they had school closures as a result of the swine flu.

This bill is different than that in that it no longer includes that provision and therefore, it is not the same bill that we voted out of chamber during the regular session. And I mean -- and I understand that we do things quickly around here and things change rapidly. I guess my question would be through you, Mr. Speaker to Representative Fleischmann, are we sure that that is the only change with regard to this bill as compared to what we did during the regular session? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I had believed as I described initially that there were no changes. It turns out there was the Granby piece that the Minority Leader has just drawn attention to, which the State Board of Ed had also done a ruling on during the time

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between June 3rd and today indicating that they felt it was bad policy to move forward in any way on that.

The other change is apparently a minor change related to a provision in a certification section about revocation and what type of criminal penalties are involved. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we've learned now there are two changes to the bill that we voted on during regular session that is now before us. Through you, Mr. Speaker, could the gentlemen please point out the second change that he referenced, and so we can see where that is in this lengthy bill? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, so I'd like to modify my earlier response. There is a section in this bill where some have raised questions about whether there ought to be change, but there was no change actually

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made.

So in fact, we're looking at a bill that is identical to what this chamber passed on June 2nd, I believe, with the only change being that there's no longer inclusion of the Granby section that the good Minority Leader referred to earlier. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Could the good gentleman point out that clause where we thought there was a change? It turns out there wasn't a change, but people have expressed concern about, but we decided to leave it as is. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in lines 490 and 815 of the bill there are citations of statute and apparently, there's still some back and forth about whether one of those citations should remain as is or should be modified.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, with regard to that issue and for the reason -- the reasons that there was concern expressed, this -- these sections of the bill deal with reasons a teacher's certification may be revoked or denied for convictions of certain crimes. It adds to the list Section 53A-49 of our Connecticut General statutes.

In other words, it adds to the list of those crimes that a person can be convicted of that would deny them of their teacher certification. A person can be convicted of attempted larceny, but cannot be convicted solely of attempt. It is for this reason that the language will most likely, we thought, be deleted because a person cannot violate just an attempt statute.

That being the case, unless the good gentleman disagrees with me, do we know why it wasn't taken out of the bill and if it's -- and obviously, it isn't taken out of the bill, and how we will sort of justify how that will work with the passage of this bill? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, as the Minority Leader pointed out, this section of the bill is about who is able to get a certification and be -- get the imprint, the imprimatur of the State of Connecticut as a teacher in our state in good standing.

The reason there's back and forth is there can be disagreement about what is the appropriate level to set that standard and when it doubt, we tend to be conservative. And in this case, Mr. Speaker, what we're talking about is someone who may have attempted to commit a serious crime like larceny.

And it was the better judgment of the State Department of Education, when they put this proposal before us, in the Education Committee on this General Assembly, in past versions of this bill, that someone who has attempted, been convicted of attempted larceny, is someone who we don't want in front of the classroom in Connecticut. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the gentlemen for his answers. Ladies and gentlemen, we've been called in on this day to have a special session within a special session. We've had a few weeks off since we last met and we felt that the bills we are going to handle today were necessary for us as a State to move forward.

And I guess, all I would say is if we continue on today, I hope we get our act together, because when you're doing stuff that has a 55 page bill that is of this importance, and we don't know whether or not there's something in or something out, or we change something, or should have changed something -- there's disagreement -- a lot of people at home scratching their heads -- what are those guys doing up there? And we've got to be pretty careful. This is important stuff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Would you care to remark further on the bill before us? Would you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

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THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members of the chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members of the chamber, please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. The clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill 6901.

Total Number Voting 128

Necessary for Passage 65

Those voting Yea 127

Those voting Nay 1

Those absent and not voting 23

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Emergency Certified Bill is passed.

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I move that we immediately transmit all items having been acted on for further action to the Senate.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on immediate transmittal of all items that need further action in the Senate. Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the bills are immediately transmitted to the Senate.

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. We will now await business from the Senate, so I would move that we recess subject to the call of the Chair.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on recess subject to the call of the Chair. Is there any objection? Hearing none, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

On motion of Representative Merrill of the 54th District, the House recessed at 2:12 o'clock p.m., to reconvene at the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 2:57 o'clock p.m., Speaker Donovan in the Chair.

SPEAKER DONOVAN: