

**Act Number:** 09-034

**Bill Number:** 6287

**Senate Pages:** 1901-1902, 1935, 1937-1938 **5**

**House Pages:** 1974-1981 **8**

**Committee:** Public Safety: 143-147, 327-329 **8**

**Page Total:** **21**

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

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ch/rgd/md  
SENATE

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Motion is to refer item to Higher Ed.

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 531, PR.

Calendar 532, PR.

Calendar 533, PR.

Calendar 535, House Bill Number 6643, Mr.

President, I move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to place item on consent.

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 536, House Bill Number 6685, likewise, I move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to place item on consent.

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 537, PR.

Calendar 538 is marked go.

Calendar 539, House Bill Number 6287,

Mr. President, I move to place this item on the

Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on the floor to place item on consent.

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 540, PR.

Calendar 542, PR.

Moving to calendar page 16, Calendar 543 is  
marked go.

Calendar 544, PR.

Calendar 545, PR.

Calendar 546, Senate Bill Number 579,

Mr. President, I move to place this item on the foot  
of the calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 547, Senate  
Bill Number 1123, Mr. President, I move to refer this  
item to the Committee on Finance, Revenue, and  
Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to refer to Finance, Revenue and  
Bonding.

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for House Bill 6643; Calendar 536, Substitute for  
House Bill 6685.

Calendar page 15, Calendar Number 539, Substitute  
for House Bill 6287.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 553, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 885.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 587, Substitute for  
House Bill 6598; Calendar 588, Substitute for House  
Bill 6324.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 592, House Bill 6439.

Calendar page 27, Calendar Number 135, Senate  
Bill 842.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 140, Senate Bill 872.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 175, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 617.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 182, Senate Bill 973.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 206, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 949.

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 368, Senate  
Bill 846.

Calendar page 38, Calendar 396, House Bill 5841.

Calendar page 42, Calendar 519, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1092; Calendar 375, Substitute for Senate  
Bill 1021.

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items placed on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Clerk, if you could please call for a roll call vote, I will open the machine.

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 on the Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote. The machine will be locked.

Mr. Clerk, please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

The motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar  
Number 1:

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those Voting Yea	36
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent/Not Voting	0

THE CHAIR:

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Consent Calendar Number 1 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I would move for suspension for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of item on calendar page 42, Calendar 519, Senate Bill 1092, An Act Concerning the Client's Security Fund, that was included in the immediately preceding vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to suspend down to the House Calendar 519.

Without objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, as the second order of the day, I would ask the Clerk to call the item on calendar page 22, Calendar 595, Substitute for House Bill 6648.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to calendar page 22, a matter marked second order of the day, Calendar Number 595, File

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all of us. And I'm sure in the painting, there's no litter in the area, because Dick would have made sure he cleaned it up. So thank you very much for coming. We miss him very much. Thank you very much.

Clerk, please call Calendar Number 83.

THE CLERK:

On page 33, Calendar 83, substitute for House Bill Number 6287, AN ACT AUTHORIZING CASH PRIZES FOR BLOWER BALL GAMES, favorable report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill will authorize cash prize replacements for the more popular money wheel games, that for years, a number of

legislators have put amendments on gaming casino bills.

As you're aware of, in January of 2003 our casino statute was repealed with the adoption of the two Native American casinos. And this is a bill that, with the help of my good colleague, Representative Piscopo on the Republican side, will help not only volunteer fire departments around our state, but other charitable organizations that rely heavily in years past, dealing with a way of raising revenue.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5438. May he please call and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5438, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

THE CLERK:

LCO number 5438, House A, offered by Representatives McCluskey and Olson.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Hearing none, Representative, you may please proceed with summarization.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment just simply defines what cash pizes for power ball games, and what the definition of blower ball games is. And I move for its adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before the chamber is the adoption of House Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on House Amendment Schedule A? Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, Representative.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to Representative Dargan. Representative Dargan, for the edification of this chamber, can you explain the mechanics and physics behind blower ball? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

I would be very happy to do that to the esteemed

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Minority Leader. Basically it's six numbers and it works similar to bingo. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, where does the element of the blower come in? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Basically, it works similar to, if you ever watch our daily numbers with the lotto. I don't know if Representative Cafero plays our daily numbers. If you can't win, you can't play. So it's similar to that, except that there's only six numbers. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it's clear as a bell to me, and I would join Representative Dargan and the rest of the chamber in supporting this amendment.

Thank you very much.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Thank you, Representative. Representative  
Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you. Briefly on the  
amendment, as Representative Dargan said, this simply  
clarifies the question about what exactly a blower  
ball machine is and it is a good amendment to a good  
bill. And I urge it's a support.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Would you care to  
remark further on the amendment? Would you care to  
remark further on the amendment? If not, I will try  
your minds. All those in favor, please signify by  
saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Would you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (76th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know,

every year for a number of years now, I've gotten up in an effort to try and help our volunteer fire departments raise some money with their carnivals. And Representative Dargan has always pledged that he would help me with this, in this endeavor and I'm -- I want to thank Representative Dargan publicly for his steadfastness and his persistence and keeping his word and giving me a hand on this.

And this would aid our volunteer fire departments raise a little money at their carnivals, at their summer carnivals. So thank you, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, again thank you. On the underlying bill as amended, this is a tremendous opportunity for so many charitable organizations throughout the state to raise money in a way that they've been shut out from for so very long.

This is a very simple bill. It is a very simple solution, but an important one. And it will give, as the Representative said, fire departments, it will

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give volunteer organizations, it will give churches and religious groups an opportunity to raise money for their causes that are so important to our communities. I support the bill and I urge its adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Care to remark further on the bill as amended? Care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, I ask they please check the board and make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 36 -- House bill 6287, as amended by

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House A.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	130
Those voting Nay	14
Those absent and not voting	7

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 328.

THE CLERK:

On page 16, Calendar 328, House Bill Number 6087,  
AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT TO  
RECEIVE AND TREAT SEWAGE FROM THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD,  
favorable report of the Committee on Environment.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Roy.

REP. ROY (119th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I urge  
acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report  
and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance of the joint  
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.  
Will you remark, sir?

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY AND  
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have also.

REP. DARGAN: Bob have any questions?

Questions to the Department of Public Safety from anyone? You're off pretty clean. Thank you very much for coming today.

JOHN BLASCHIK: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: The next speaker is executive director of special revenue, Paul Young.

PAUL YOUNG: Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan, members of the public safety committee, thank you for letting me speak. My name is Paul Young. I am the executive director of the division of special revenue, and the division has two bills before you today, and they both are -- come out of our charitable games unit..

HB 6323

The first bill is Raised Bill 6287 titled An Act Authorizing Cash Prizes for the Blower Ball Games. The intent behind this is to replace -- there was a popular game out there that a lot of the bazaars used called the money wheel, and when we repealed the charitable games Las Vegas night a few years ago, a number of years ago, the money wheel went away. This is an attempt to bring back a similar game, although it's using what's called -- what's considered to be a bingo device, which is the blower ball device, which is authorized under the bingo statutes. So our attempt here is to help our not-for-profit organizations use this very popular game, and that's what the blower ball is all about.

If you'd like, I'll just simply move on to the next one or we can answer the questions -- all

right, our next bill is 6323. It's An Act Permitting the 50-50 Coupons at Certain Organization Functions and Athletic Events. This, too, is an attempt to help the not-for-profit organizations. I know many of us go to various athletic events, and wherever you're going, you're being asked to participate in a 50-50 raffle. It needs to be authorized. It needs to be permitted through the division. Right now the only way you can do that is through a bazaar permit, and you can only have two of those. This new legislation would require one permit. It would be good for an entire year, and an organization can do it for multiple events. If there's five basketball games that week, they can do something every night of the week for that basketball game. So we're attempting to be responsive to the charitable games area out there, and I'd be more than happy to answer any questions. I've sent you written testimony, so this is all covered in the written testimony that you should all have a copy of.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Paul. I know that there was concerns over the past few years, Democrats and Republicans, especially in all volunteer community inspired service where they usually have their carnivals in the summer.

PAUL YOUNG: Right.

REP. DARGAN: So I think that that will have a favorable response from the majority of not only this committee but the entire legislature. So thank you for going forward and figuring that out for us. Representative Caruso.

slm PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY 11:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE

REP. CARUSO: Yes, Paul --

PAUL YOUNG: Yes.

REP. CARUSO: -- could you tell me, has the drop in revenue that you've seen in your agency when it came to bazaars or festivals or things of that sort without the money wheel --

PAUL YOUNG: Right.

REP. CARUSO: -- have you seen a drop from that time or have you seen a drop overall?

PAUL YOUNG: There was definitely a drop when Las Vegas nights was repealed. There has been a consistent drop every year in those arenas. In particular, the money wheel was a big piece of that, and that -- we definitely saw a drop in the revenue for the not-for-profit organizations.

REP. CARUSO: Do you feel your suggestion of this new game, have you talked to people out in those venues to see if this is an acceptable alternative and you think they'll participate in it?

PAUL YOUNG: Yes, we have. We -- we did some telephone calls to some of our various organizations. They were excited to believe that they could use this device. It's a -- that machine is already authorized. We already licensed the people that manufacture the machine --

REP. CARUSO: Okay.

PAUL YOUNG: -- so they can either purchase it or they can rent it through an existing channel, and most of the people that we've talked to said that they would take advantage of it.

slm PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY 11:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE

REP. CARUSO: It's good. Let me just comment, it's very good that you guys are proactive on this. I chaired my church festival for a number of years, and when we couldn't use those wheels anymore --

PAUL YOUNG: Right.

REP. CARUSO: -- a considerable revenue drop in that area, so I think it's great that you're offering these alternatives.

PAUL YOUNG: Thank you. And we do have a copy of it. We can pass this out if people would like to see what one looks like, but they're existing machines out there that I think will do the job for us.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you. Further questions?

REP. JUTILA: Thank you. Just a quick question.

PAUL YOUNG: Sure.

REP. JUTILA: In 6287, in the new language, you've got blower ball in quotes there. I assume that's not defined then or intended to be defined somewhere else or does it --

PAUL YOUNG: No.

REP. JUTILA: -- not need to be defined? It's readily understood?

PAUL YOUNG: It is readily understood in the industry, but, you know, although we have this particular blower ball machine already authorized, that doesn't mean that a different manufacturer might not come forward at some point in time and offer up a blower ball

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slm PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY 11:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE

machine.

REP. JUTILA: So there's only one manufacturer --

PAUL YOUNG: Currently.

REP. JUTILA: -- one manufacturer right now  
that makes --

PAUL YOUNG: That is currently authorized here,  
but -- but there are other manufacturers out  
there that could come to Connecticut if this  
becomes a very popular area and want to sell  
their blower balls to Connecticut, but they'd  
have to be authorized. They'd have to be  
licensed by the division.

REP. JUTILA: Okay, but there's nothing special  
about that name --

PAUL YOUNG: No.

REP. JUTILA: -- associated with that one  
manufacturer?

PAUL YOUNG: No, it is not.

REP. JUTILA: Okay, thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Representative Sayers.

REP. SAYERS: Thank you. Would this legislation  
then allow you to approve any other  
manufacturer coming into the state without  
coming before the legislature again?

PAUL YOUNG: We already have existing authorization  
that would allow that to occur. We would not  
have to come back.

REP. DARGAN: Further questions? Hearing none,

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Public Safety and Security Committee

Public Hearing Testimony

February 10, 2009

H.B. 6287 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING CASH PRIZES FOR "BLOWER BALL"  
GAMES.

H.B. 6323 (RAISED) AN ACT PERMITTING "FIFTY-FIFTY" COUPON GAMES AT  
CERTAIN ORGANIZATION FUNCTIONS AND ATHLETIC EVENTS.

Testimony submitted by:  
Division of Special Revenue

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Young, and I am the Executive Director of the Division of Special Revenue. I am here to address two Division proposals on your agenda. We appreciate the Committee's consideration in raising them and scheduling them for this hearing. Each proposal relates to our charitable gaming program.

The first proposal is Raised Bill No. 6287 titled 'An Act Authorizing Cash Prizes For "Blower Ball" Games'. It would amend the Bazaar and Raffle Law (Sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes) so as to authorize any nonprofit organization or group conducting a bazaar to award cash prizes which shall not exceed fifty dollars each in connection with the playing of a "blower ball" game.

This proposal would authorize a cash prize replacement for the popular "money-wheel" game. The authority to conduct the "money-wheel" game was lost with the repeal of the Las Vegas night law in January 2003, as a "money-wheel" game is a casino game. This proposal would replace the use of a "money-wheel" with a "blower ball" machine (not a casino game or equipment item). A "blower ball" cash game would be played in the same manner as a "money-wheel" game, with payment odds of one-to-one up to three-to-one. However, instead of a winner being determined by the spin of a marked wheel, the winner would be determined by the drawing of a colored or numbered ball. Nonprofit organizations, such as churches, volunteer fire departments, and veteran organizations, made use of bazaar permits and "money-wheel" game activity to realize thousands of dollars in income for their worthy purposes. That was all lost

with the 2003 repeal. This proposal would authorize a cash prize activity which may replace the "money-wheel" in popularity and become very helpful to our nonprofit bazaar permittees.

The second proposal is Raised Bill No.6323 titled '**An Act Permitting "Fifty-Fifty" Coupon Games At Certain Organization Functions And Athletic Events.**' It would amend the Bazaar and Raffle Law (Section 7-185a of the general statutes) so as to authorize a "fifty-fifty" special event permit for use in extending "fifty-fifty" coupon game fundraising, conducted by qualified nonprofit organizations. As proposed, a "fifty-fifty" special event permit would be good for one year and would cost fifty dollars, with twenty-five dollars retained by the permit issuing municipality and twenty-five dollars remitted to the State.

A "fifty-fifty" coupon game can be conducted, legally, today, under a bazaar permit. However, the requisite permit would only be effective for each day of a permitted event (up to ten consecutive days), and an organization may only obtain two bazaar permits a year. Many organizations, for example, would want to conduct "fifty-fifty" activity at high school football games or other events throughout a season, in order to maximize their fundraising potential. The new type of permit authorized through this legislation would enable a qualifying organization to do that.

That concludes the testimony. I would be pleased to respond to questions, if any.