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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I move the emergency certified bill and seek  
leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I would.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DAILY:

I don't think any of us were eager here to be  
here again this week, but it does give me the chance  
to thank our staff one more time. It's a staff that  
could not be thanked often enough: John Chaput in our  
finance office; Rob Wysock from OFA; Anne Carroll, our  
LCO; Judith Lohman from OLR; also, Bill Lederman, who  
has filled in tremendously this week; Jenna Padula,  
Kumi Sato; Mary Finnegan, our top-notch administrator;  
and special thanks to Dave Kiner, who has filled in  
for my aide and has also helped out the Finance

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Committee in our preparation of bills. And I will discuss the bill.

I have in my hand LCO Number 9950. I would ask the Clerk if they would call that, and I seek leave summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 9950, which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A." It is offered by Senator Daily of the 33rd District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DAILY:

I moved the amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, ma'am.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much. This is the summary of the

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revenue estimates that the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee did this morning plus a correction in line 1177 and 1182 of the underlying bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on Senate "A"? Will you remark further on Senate "A"? Okay. I will try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted.

Will you remark further on Senate Bill 2052 as amended by Senate "A"?

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much. I think no more needs to be said about it than it is basically the bill that we passed last week, absent the fees and fines that the Governor objected to, and I might say that none of us liked voting for in the first place. It was just necessary in order to fill a revenue gap.

Since then, the Attorney General has come to

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resolution on two cases that he had before him. That provides most of the revenue to cover the things that otherwise would have been covered.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Will you remark further?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to remark that I'm very grateful that Governor Rell and the people of the state of Connecticut ought to be grateful that Governor Rell saw fit to veto the bill that we passed last week over the objection of the members of my caucus, because, Mr. President, that bill was going to raise approximately \$50 million from the hard-working and beleaguered taxpayers of the state of Connecticut in a way they couldn't avoid. It wasn't an increase in the cigarette tax. People can quit smoking and not pay the cigarette tax or the alcohol tax. It was an increase in virtually every motor vehicle fee, getting a new license, registering your car, and people can't avoid paying those fees. And I think Governor Rell understood that over the past year more than 70,000

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Connecticut residents have lost their jobs, and times have never been tougher for families and individuals in this state.

Mr. President, the fact that we are here a week later and the fact that we no longer need to raise those fees is pretty good evidence, I think, that if we put our heads to it, if we really were committed to going easier on the taxpayers of Connecticut, we could find additional ways to streamline government operations in our state and to avoid piling on people that are desperately trying to make ends meet. So I'm grateful for that.

I'm still going to oppose the bill, Mr. President, because the bill represents the implementation of budget, which I think relies much too heavily on increases in taxes and does not go far enough in terms of finding ways to achieve greater efficiencies in government.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Roraback.

Will you remark further on Senate Bill 2052 as amended by Senate "A"?

Senator Debicella.

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SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, through you, a question to the  
proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Through you, Mr. President, yesterday, the  
Comptroller of the State of Connecticut came out with  
a note that said that the budget that we passed just  
three and a half years ago is now projected to be  
approximately half a billion dollars out of whack.

A question, through you, is does the bill before  
us take into account that new figure at all? Through  
you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Through you, no.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President.



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And nor would I expect it to given the fact that it literally just happened yesterday. But through you, Mr. President, a question to the proponent, is it the intention of the majority, at a later date this year, to actually address the half billion dollar deficit that the bill before us will now leave us with? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

In November we will receive the consensus revenue estimates, and we will carefully scrutinize them at that time and take action if necessary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Debicella.

SENATOR DEBICELLA:

Thank you, Mr. President, and I thank the chairwoman for the answer to the question.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Yes, Mr. President. For the purpose of a

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question to the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Senator Daily, just to refresh our memory, our colleague just indicated that the Governor saved the taxpayers money by vetoing the motor vehicle fees. Am I incorrect in recalling that the fees were proposed in the Governor's budget in February?

SENATOR DAILY:

You are not incorrect --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Sorry, Mr. President. Through you, Mr. President, you are not incorrect, Senator Maynard.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

So to be perfectly clear to folks listening, the Governor actually proposed increases in her own budget to the motor vehicle fees in DMV?

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Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And through you, Mr. President, yes, Senator Maynard, and to the best of my knowledge those were the exact fees proposed by the Governor.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, and were those fees also voted upon by -- well, perhaps this is beyond the proponent's area of expertise, but my understanding is those were supported in large part by our colleagues across the aisle at that time through the committee process.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I have no knowledge of that, and I don't think that, to the best of my recollection, they had an opportunity to support or object, because we never took them up.

We objected to them and didn't take them up for that reason and didn't take them up until the very end when there was no other source of revenue for the things that the Governor wanted in the budget.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. President and thank you for the clarification on those issues. I appreciate it.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I just wanted to put on the record I support this, as well, but one of the things that the fees did do is to eliminate a need for a rate increase in bus and rail.

And I know -- I just want to put on the record that the Governor has said that there are ways to preclude a rate increase for rail, in particular, and bus through working within the budget. And I, for one, look forward to seeing manifest her assurance that there is no rate increase, because I know in my

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district, given the economy, a rate increase for bus fare would be devastating.

And so I just want to thank the Governor for making that commitment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Mr. President, this is like watching a bad movie over and over and over again.

Senator Maynard is correct. The Governor introduced a budget widely criticized by members of the Democratic Party, and her budget included fee increases. What her budget did not include was a \$1.5 billion dollar tax increase, which the majority passed and imposed on the people of the state of Connecticut.

To suggest that the Governor voted -- vetoed something that she supported completely misses the context in which she offered fee increases. Fee increases in a budget that doesn't raise taxes is a far cry from fee increases on a budget that raised \$1.5 billion in taxes.

And that was the tax increase in the Democrat budget. It could have been less if we had a sales tax

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cut. We now know that sales tax cut was a false promise to the people of the state of Connecticut, and will not happen, as the Comptroller has assured us, with the revenue projections.

But this is the perfect time to talk about these issues. Senator Harp mentions the Governor's pledge not to raise bus and rail fare increases. Well, I was in the leadership budget negotiations, and the Governor and the OPM secretary were very clear -- were very clear that even with those proposed fee increases there may be need for rail fare increases.

And we're talking about \$24 million a year in the Special Transportation Fund. We spend 18 billion a year, and we can't cut 24 million out of the budget to avoid bus and rail fare increases. So the majority's solution was, let's not cut 24 million out of 18 billion; let's raise fees. And the Governor said -- (Gap in tape.)

-- rail increases. Because of the budget passed by the Democratic majority, they will be out there with press conferences criticizing the Governor for what their budget instituted.

We've seen it before and we're going to see it again. Cut \$24 million out of 18 billion and there

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will not be a fare increase for anyone who rides the rails or the buses. That's a true fact. You're unwilling to do it.

Now, yesterday, we got some sobering news. The Comptroller, a Democrat, the person under our revenue consensus budgeting bill, is the tiebreaker about what our revenue is in the State of Connecticut -- said that when you assume all of your tax increases, when they are all implemented, we're going to have in excess of \$500 million less revenue.

And I'm also concerned she said that the \$473 million, which you're supposed to save, but you haven't told us how you're going to save it, may not be realized, because in her history, as with our history, we've never even come close to 473 million in lapses, maybe a hundred, maybe 150, but nowhere close to 473. And we're not going to get close to that 473. And I bet there will be press conferences coming from the majority criticizing the Governor for not getting that 473.

So we may be facing a 500 million to a billion dollar budget deficit in this budget, and here we are implementing it. Has anybody learned from the mistakes we made last year? We did not one, not two,

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not three, but four deficit medication packages, and despite those attempts we were still left with an over \$900 million deficit. And what did we do? We borrowed the money. Can we go back and borrow another half a billion to a billion dollars in 2010? There's no way. How dare we do that.

So we're implementing a budget that is already going to have a deficit, and a significant deficit. We won't have the ability to borrow. There is no magic gift coming from the Obama administration. There is no more Rainy Day Fund, yet we're all acting as if, well, we're implementing this budget; isn't it great?

The Comptroller's letter is sobering news, and we need to get together before January 1st, before December, before November. We should be meeting now and addressing what will be a deficit in the budget.

Don't keep your head buried in the sand. Don't ignore what's happening out there in the real world. This budget, which we're finishing to pass today, will end in a deficit if we don't make changes.

The new tax increases, the income tax increase on the highest wage earners in the state of Connecticut will not solve that problem. The Comptroller has said



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she assumes all the revenue from that tax increase, and we still have a \$500 million deficit. The Comptroller assumes a sales tax at 6 percent, not a cut, and we still have a \$500 million deficit. That's real, folks. It's nobody's fault because our economy is in trouble, but it is our fault if we continue to spend the way we're spending in the face of dwindling revenue.

So yes, Senator, you're right. There was a time when the Governor supported fee increases, but hitting every person in the state of Connecticut, man woman and child, who goes in to the Department of Motor Vehicles, after they've been socked with a \$1.5 billion tax increase, I think, is a little unfair.

And, yes, Senator Harp. The Governor promised not to have bus and rail fare increases, but she's going to do that despite the budget you passed and despite the budget you gave her.

So let's not leave this room today and say we're done, we passed a budget for 2010. Let's heed the warning of Comptroller Nancy Wyman and start spending less money.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you very much, Senator McKinney.

Senator Maynard, for the second time.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I certainly didn't intend to raise a contentious point. I was merely attempting to address whether, for the folks at home, the Governor had considered the specific tax increases.

I, again, I don't want to get into an extended colloquy. We have other business to do here, but Senator McKinney raised some other interesting points. And again, I don't want to prolong this, but it does strike me, if I'm going to be scolded, in effect, for raising the issue, that the Governor's budget also had a gaping revenue hole in it of some \$3 billion, that was only corrected by action that required the Comptroller and the Office of Policy and Management to reconcile that. And so, in effect, the Governor was forced to acknowledge the dire fiscal circumstances that this State was in by our action as a Senate and House.

So I think in fairness to your spirited retort we have to acknowledge that the Governor was not being entirely forthcoming in her budget, and was willing to

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balance that budget with fees on virtually everyone, including motorists, hunters, fisherman, and a variety of other people while going to the mat to ensure that the wealthiest citizens in our state did not pay another nickel in revenue.

She, frankly, was forced into that position, and I find it, frankly, a little insulting to the public that we should begin to have that discussion again at this point when we're trying to simply move business forward.

My answer to -- my response, through you, Mr. President, to Senator Roraback, was because I felt that rather broad-brush defense of the Governor as having defended citizens against a reprehensible action by this Senate deserved a response. And that was why I asked the question.

I hope we can now move forward. I think all of us know it is a bad movie, but it's history of Connecticut part two. I don't think we -- any of us want to go through the six-month debate we've had over the budget. These are difficult decisions. None of us are happy about this, and we're trying to move the business forward. I hope that we can do so. Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Maynard.

I'd like to just remind the members that we are addressing -- please speak to the question at hand and the bill at hand as we go forward here on this bill and the rest of the bills.

Senator McKinney, for the second time.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And this is an important debate. I don't -- I hope there wasn't any insults taken on this side of the aisle other than really good philosophical differences.

But let me just end and suggest this, for those in this circle who criticized and cajoled the Governor's budget for being rather rosy in the projection of the deficit and not being real with numbers and balanced -- I hope you realize you are now voting to implement a budget that, under the Comptroller's estimates from yesterday, does the exact same thing you accused her of doing.

The Comptroller told us yesterday that this budget is going to have in excess of \$500 million less revenue, and potentially, another 473 million in

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savings not achieved.

In your words, how is this an honest budget? How is this a balanced budget for the state of Connecticut?

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on Senate Amendment "A" -- I'm sorry. Will you remark further on Senate Bill 2052 as amended by Senate "A"?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, speaking in support of the bill, would like to commend Senator Daily and her cochair, Representative Staples, for all of their hard work, in particular in grappling with this issue in terms of its many forms and efforts to finally bring it to the final form that is before us here today.

This is, of course, a very difficult process. We know that we are in very volatile times. And certainly, we will go through the process for the current fiscal year, and if it becomes, in fact, clear that there is an ongoing decline in revenues, we will address that in a forthright way.

But the reality is that this now presents us with

the supplemental language that we need to carry forward the budget that -- and the tax act that was passed three weeks ago. And it does contain a few refinements and also a couple of, what I believe will be, popular corrections.

First of all, I just wanted to draw attention to the fact that we do have a provision that the bill reverses the annual increase in the license fee for licensed practical nurses, which had doubled -- the fee had been doubled to \$120. And because they had paid a recent increase, this now restores that \$60 fee. So there will be relief in that regard.

Also in the bill, the budget, as was passed in Public Act 03-9, imposed a \$30 fee for a resident marine waters fishing license. This bill reduces that fee to \$10 and makes a technical conforming change. So it is mitigating some of the provisions that were passed earlier that had raised some concern.

One other point, Mr. President, in terms of far-reaching and creative revenue policy, the bill does create for the future a potential green buildings tax credit, which could be very important in terms of providing for enhanced energy conscious, environmentally conscious development in our state,

and that starting with income years beginning on or after January 2012, the bill will allow the state to establish a corporation tax credit for those who build buildings that meet very exacting standards of the -- of LEED standards.

And it is important, I think, to recognize that the bill is now structured in a way that will allow the Office of Policy and Management to evaluate the proposal, to evaluate whether or not the credit is deserved, whether it meets sound public policy in a particular case, but allows an environmentally conscious developer to make the case that the project is meritorious and deserves to be encouraged by the creation -- by the awarding of this credit.

And this will, we hope, provide an example to others to motivate others to build according to the same standards, which will have great long-term benefits for the future of the state of Connecticut.

So even in these hard times, Mr. President, where much of what we have had to do is retrenchment, we have at least been able to provide some new potentially creative measures for the future.

And I want to thank Senator Daily and Representative Staples for their leadership on that.

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Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to support the bill, and I also want to thank Senator Eileen Daily for her terrific work as Chair of the Finance Committee and in tying up the loose ends in the implementor bill that's before us that implements the finance package that we voted on as part of the entire biennial budget.

As for the back-and-forth between Senator McKinney and Senator Maynard, I want to associate myself with the remarks of Senator Maynard. And I think that you aptly summed up the last six months.

I do want to agree with Senator McKinney, though, and that is that we don't want to watch that movie all over again. It is time to move forward.

As for Comptroller Wyman's letter, I would say to my good friend, Senator McKinney, that she has not, at this point, certified that we have a deficit of \$500 million. If she had done that, we would be in mitigation phase right now.



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But I do believe that her letter is a warning that we all should heed and that we all are well aware of, and that is that there are storm clouds on the horizon. We in Connecticut, as with folks in the 49 other states across this country, know that we're not out of the woods yet when it comes to this deep recession that has been visited upon this country and that, actually, folks are facing around the world.

So that's why we want to work with the Governor and make sure that the \$3 billion worth of cuts that are in the biennial budget are implemented, that we save that savings and that we go forward looking for more savings, so Mr. President, that this implementer that we're voting on right now will be a part of a piece of a financial package that makes the budget work in the next two years.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on Senate Bill 2052? If not, Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the

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

THE CHAIR:

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

Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of Emergency Certified Bill 2052 as amended.

Total number voting	33
Necessary for Adoption	17
Those voting Yea	21
Those voting Nay	12
Those absent and not voting	3

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes as amended.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of

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Emergency Certified Senate Bill 2052 as amended.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to transmit Senate Bill 2052 to the House. Without objection, so ordered, sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, continuing on Senate Agenda Number 1, under Number 2, Business From the House, if the Clerk would call Emergency Certified House Bill 7075.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a second, please.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calling from Senate Agenda Number 1, Emergency Certified Bill 7005, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET CONCERNING HUMAN SERVICES

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recognize a moment of silence.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Chamber, please rise.

Representative, you have our sympathy and  
condolences.

Will the House please call Emergency Certified  
Bill 2052.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 2052, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE  
PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET CONCERNING REVENUE, LCO  
Number 9919, and produced by Senator Williams and  
Representative Donovan.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Chairman of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding  
Committee, Representative Cameron Staples, you have  
the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bill

before us makes a number of adjustments to our revenues. Most particularly to implement the changes to revenue that we adopted in the budget about a month ago. The bill is almost identical to the bill that this Chamber passed a few weeks back with the removal of Department of Motor Vehicle fees and with the recognition of some new revenue that has been achieved in the last week or so due to some settlements announced by the attorney general. Other than that and a few minor technical changes, the bill before us remains as it was. It remains a bill that makes changes to the tax laws relating to the estate tax, income tax, and corporate tax to account for the new rates that were adopted in the most recent budget.

Mr. Speaker, one important element of the bill before us is that it makes clear to taxpayers, both individual and corporate, that although they have a new obligation under the bill that was adopted by this Chamber and was allowed to go into law by the Governor, there will be no penalties and fees for their payments if they make those payments at the next regular payment schedule of estimated or quarterly payments. That is a significant provision of the bill, because although we're adopting new revenues, we

certainly don't want to punish people for not making payments throughout the fiscal year and the calendar year before the law became effective a month ago.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to ask the Clerk to please call an amendment, it's LCO Number 9950. And I would ask the Clerk to please call it and I be permitted to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 9950, which is designated Senate Amendment "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 9950, Senate "A," offered by Senator Daily and Representative Staples.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there an objection to summarization?

Hearing none, Representative Staples, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the amendment before us is largely the revenue estimates that were adopted by the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee today. There is also, in the first section of the amendment, some technical changes to transfers

between the General Fund and the Special Transportation Fund to make them comply with the revenue estimates. It was just an error in the underlying bill.

The revenue estimates that are contained before us here in this amendment reflect essentially the changes that I had mentioned earlier: The deletion of motor vehicle fee increases that are no longer in legislation before us and the inclusion of settlement fund resources. A few other minor changes, but essentially that's what the revenue estimate's difference is today as from a few weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on adoption of the amendment. Would you remark further? Would you care to remark further?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment please signify by saying, aye.

VOICES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.



Will you remark further on the bill? Will you  
remark further on the bill?

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:  
Good evening, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):  
Thank you. If I may, a question to the proponent  
of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:  
Please proceed, Representative.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume what we just  
did here today was we adopted new revenue estimates,  
largely in part as a result of the Governor vetoing  
the attempt to raise Department of Motor Vehicle fees  
and license costs. May I ask, the new revenue  
estimates, what adjustments have we made aside from  
taking away those DMV fees? What other differences do  
these revenue estimates contain compared to the  
original revenue estimate bill? Through you, Mr.  
Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:  
Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The -- as I mentioned, the principal differences are the exclusion of those DMV fees, the addition of \$30 million of settlement proceeds that the attorney general announced in the last week or so, and there is a slight reduction in the securitization amount that we had in the budget we adopted. And other than that, Mr. Speaker, as I look at the list, there is a small amount of funds to reflect the restitution of the Long Island Sound Account, about \$300,000. But I believe every other fee portion or revenue portion of the bill remain as they were.

As -- the one -- the one last thing I'll mention is there are some differences in the transfers between accounts based on the fact that the DMV fees went into the Special Transportation Fund, and they are no longer -- they're no longer going there. So that -- that is the -- that is all that I think is in the revenue estimates that is different from the last time, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if I may, these revenue estimates then, we saw yesterday, I guess, the

comptroller has come out with a letter stating some concern with the revenue estimates that we had originally adopted back when we passed the budget on -- in early September. And her projections are now stating that we may be seeing revenue shortfalls of \$500 million because of certain decreases in areas of income and sales tax. Have we incorporated any of the -- of those -- of that input from the comptroller in adopting these particular revenue estimates?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Comptroller's letter, as you're aware, Representative, is a monthly letter that she provides the first of every month, assessing where we are in -- in our budget process and in terms of our revenues and our expenditures. And she does not say that there will be a deficit of \$500 million, nor that there is even a projected deficit at this time of that amount. What she says is that if present trends continue in the -- as they are in the early information she's received in September, then we may have a deficit of that amount by the end of the year. But she also says that if trends change, then

that may mitigate the deficit.

So I think it's a cautionary letter, not so much about the budget that we adopted or about what we're doing today, but just about the fact that we're still in an uncertain economic time, and it's still unclear what our revenue stream is going to look like for the balance of this year. As you're well aware, she could have said that we have a one percent or greater projected deficit already, thus triggering a -- a mitigation requirement. She didn't do that. And that would of -- that would only have been if she thought we were going to be \$180 million, you know, offbase.

So I think -- I think it's a cautionary letter. I don't think it's -- it's something that we have to -- we have to react to at this point in time. I did ask our Office of Fiscal Analysis what they considered it to be, and they said their concerns or their perspective was that it was still too early to make a change in the revenues that we adopted a few weeks ago. They are looking at all the same data the comptroller looked at. The third quarter data is not complete. And they expect to have a better handle on it probably over the next several weeks. But at this point in time, they did not think that they should

adjust their revenue estimates.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the good Chairman for his answers. And I guess generally I -- I have much pause, again, at what we're doing here today with this particular bill. One of the things that we did in this session was adopt a new method of coming up with a revenue consensus number. And what we will be doing now is -- I believe it's on a quarterly basis -- OPM and OFA will continue to get together and come up a -- a revenue estimate. And if they can't agree, the comptroller will be the final arbiter of what our revenues are.

And so I have -- I give great pause to what the comptroller has written and what impact that should have on this bill today. I do understand that it is a projection, an estimate; it is not necessarily projecting an official deficit. But I think that I'm concerned that OFA -- that today we have not maybe properly taken the data into consideration with the adoption of these revenue estimates.

And one of the big concerns I have, I think, the

trend that we have seen over the last six months that we should be concerned with is the additional revenue that we have found here today in order to fill the hole is another one-time revenue, a \$30 million settlement from a lawsuit. That lawsuit, once it's paid out, the money is gone. So we are building another structural hole with the adoption of this revenue package, with the way we have structured the spending.

And I am gravely concerned about this. I think that what we are doing here today, what the State of Connecticut is doing is we're balancing our budget with these revenue dollars, using our credit cards, lottery tickets, and lawsuit settlements; and I think it's a dangerous trend. We need to take a look at where we are. And I certainly would urge rejection of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on the bill?

If not, staff and guests please 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 members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call board and make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted -- 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:

Senate Bill Number 2052 as amended by Senate "A," in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number voting	128
Necessary for passage	65
Those voting Yea	91
Those voting Nay	37
Those absent and not voting	23

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Emergency bill as certified has passed.

Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified Bill 2053.