

PA10-126

HB5109

Aging	18, 49-50, 99	4
House	1069-1072	4
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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zero?

THE CLERK:

On page five, Calendar 40, Substitute for House Bill Number 5109, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF REDETERMINATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, favorable report of the Committee on Human Services.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Serra of the 33rd district, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Please proceed, Representative Serra.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What this bill does is really tell the Department of Social Services in what manner that they will notify the access agencies that are under contract

with them.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment, LCO 3473. I ask that it be called and I receive permission to summarize.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 3473 which shall be designated as House Amendment Schedule A?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 3473, House "A", offered by Representative Serra, et al.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize. Do I see or hear objections? Seeing or hearing none, please proceed, sir.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment removes the specifications of the means by which the Department of Social Services must contact their contracting agencies. This not all -- does not alter the minimum fiscal impact identified in the underlying bill.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move approval of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House A.

Further on House A? Further on House A?

Representative Dargan, anything on House A?

If not, I'll try your minds, all those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed?

The ayes have it.

House A is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended? Further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please return to the well. House members take your 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.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote

ch/gdm/gbr
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has been properly cast.

If all the 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 5109 as amended by House A.

Total Number voting 144

Necessary for adoption 73

Those voting Yea 144

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 7

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 48.

THE CLERK:

On page five, Calendar 48, Substitute for House Bill Number 5247, AN ACT CONCERNING COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL, favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lawlor of the 99th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. LAWLOR (99th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

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SENATE**

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SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Then calendar page 6, Calendar 378, House Bill 5197,
move to place on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Moving to calendar page 8, Calendar 440, House Bill
5113, move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 441, House Bill 5109, move
to place on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Continuing calendar page 9, Calendar 444, House Bill
5500, move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

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Calling from Agenda Number 4, Substitute for Senate Bill 201.

Senate Agenda Number 8, Substitute for House Bill 5398, Substitute for House -- Senate Bill 175, Substitute for Senate Bill 302.

Returning to the calendar -- beginning on calendar page 5, Calendar Number 315, House Bill 5264.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 378, Substitute for or -- correction -- House Bill 5197.

Calendar page 8, Calendar -- correction, returning back to page 5, Calendar 295, Substitute for House Bill 5114 -- correction, not Calendar 295, it's Calendar 294, House Bill 5391.

Returning to calendar page 6, Calendar Number 378, House Bill 5197.

Calendar page 8, Calendar Number 440, Substitute for House Bill 5113. Calendar page 441 -- Calendar 441, Substitute for House Bill 5109.

Calendar page 9, Calendar 444, House Bill 5500.
Calendar 5 -- 41 --

Calendar page 9, Calendar 444, House Bill 5500;
Calendar 4555, House Bill 5202; Calendar 445, House Bill 5392; Calendar 450, House Bill 5529.

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Calendar page 10, Calendar 461, House Bill 5207;
Calendar 483, House Bill 5244.

Calendar 484, on page 11, House Bill 5383; Calendar
487, House Bill 5220; Calendar 488, House Bill 5297;
Calendar 490, 5425 -- House; Calendar 496, House Bill
5497; Calendar 509, House Bill 5126.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 511, House Bill 5527;
Calendar 514, House Bill 5426; Calendar 516, House Bill
5393.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 520, House Bill 5336;
Calendar 521, House Bill 5424; Calendar 523, House Bill
5223; Calendar 525, House Bill 5255.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 531, House Bill 5004.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, House Bill 5436;
Calendar 540, House Bill 5494; Calendar 543, House Bill
5399.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 544, House Bill 5434;
Calendar 547, House Bill 5196; Calendar 548, House Bill
5533; Calendar 549, House Bill 5387; Calendar 550, House
Bill 5471; Calendar 551, House Bill 5413; Calendar 552,
House Bill 5163; Calendar 553, House Bill 5159.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 554, House Bill 5164.

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Calendar page 20, Calendar 556, House Bill 5498;
Calendar 557, House Bill 5270; 559, House Bill 5407; 562,
House Bill 5253; and House Bill -- Calendar 563, House
Bill 5340; Calendar 567, House Bill 5371; and Calendar
573, House Bill 5371.

Mr. President, I believe that completes the items

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could you please give me on Calendar 567,
do you have 5516, sir?

THE CLERK:

What -- what calendar?

THE CHAIR:

567 on page 22.

THE CLERK:

It's 5516.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir. Okay.

Machine's open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the
Senate on the consent calendar. Will all Senators please
return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

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THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? Please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent
Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 2 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

Mr. President -- Mr. President, before moving to adjourn, I would like to ensure the entire chamber will wish Laura Stefon, Senator McDonald's aide, my former intern, a happy birthday.

And with that -- and with that, Mr. President, I would move the Senate stand adjourn

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The section of that bill, reducing the current 15 percent requirement down to 5 percent, I fully support that, and I particularly support the exemption for those that are in the demonstration project, those that go to -- for example my facility, the Virginia Connolly Residence, we have four residents today who now have to pay between 150 and 340 dollars more. These are people who started off with very limited income. And the savings to the state would be gigantic. If they leave the program and go to a nursing home, the state would be paying many, many times more than their 150 to 300 dollars.

Again, I support the remarks of the prior speaker, Brian Ellsworth.

REP. SERRA: Thank you.

JOSEPH LOEWY: Thank you.

REP. SERRA: Next up is Molly Gavin.

Good Morning.

MOLLY REES GAVIN: Good Morning. My name is Molly Rees Gavin. I am the president of Connecticut Community Care, Incorporated. Just a further explanation regarding that, Connecticut Community Care is the largest State Department of Social Services subcontractor for the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. And I'm here to speak on House Bill 5112 and House Bill 5109.

Regarding House Bill 5112, I would like to support the efforts of this committee and thank you very much for your efforts to reduce the 15 percent cost share for state-funded clients of the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. Let me make a couple of very

surcharge, so to speak, for home care. So that's where I was going with it, because I think I had heard there was another way of approaching that, but I knew the one that you just described, I just wanted to make sure I understood that that's -- was another way of reaching that point.

Thank you.

BRENDA KELLEY: And I do want to just thank you, too, because you did keep the program open. And I'm hoping that we can come back in now and set some of the co-pay problems. But it's important that this program stay open, you know, because there's more people down the pike that need this service. So we need two issues to be on the top of your radar screen.

Thank you so much.

REP. SERRA: Thank you.

Next is Marie Allen.

MARIE ALLEN: Good morning. Good morning, Senator Prague, Representative Serra, and members of the committee. I am Marie Allen, the director of the Southwest Agency on Aging, and I'm representing the Connecticut Association of Agencies on Aging. I'm here to seek in support of three different bills.

First, Bill 5109, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF REDETERMINATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. I'd like to particularly thank Senator Prague for bringing this to attention of the Legislators. This bill will help us prevent the removal or discontinuance of clients who fail to redetermine with Title XIX because for the most part, they are severely compromised due to cognitive issues. This

HB5111
HB5112

will give notice to the care managers so they can provide appropriate counsel and make sure redetermination paperwork is handed in on time, and thereby the client stays with us on the Connecticut home care program.

We would also like to ask for your consideration by including our access agency partner, Connecticut Community Care, Inc., in the language.

As you know, the home care program is administered in two regions by agencies on aging and in three regions by Connecticut Community Care, and we respectfully request that they be included in the notification so we can support all clients throughout the state.

Next, Raised Bill 5111, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE PROGRAM. The agencies on aging are the administrators of this program. As has been presented, we have over 300 clients on a wait list since May 11, 2009, due to the executive order to place a moratorium on new clients.

The reason the number fluctuates is simply because some families can't hold on any longer. So therefore, those clients are being placed in nursing homes prematurely. Some are deceased, and others have had acute situations which place them in the hospital and then from the hospital into nursing home for rehabilitation.

So the number is a moving target, and it is simply because, nine times out of ten, a family does not call our agency until they are in crisis. And it's the only response I can give them is, please wait, and as soon as the program -- if the program reopens, we will get

February 16, 2010

(T9)

Esteemed members of the Select Committee on Aging:

My name is Marie Allen, I am the Director of the Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, representing the CT Association of Area Agencies on Aging (the C4A), and more importantly the thousands of CT's most frail residents served through the CT Home Care Program for Elders and the CT Statewide Alzheimer's Respite Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **Raised Bill # 5109, An Act Concerning Notice of Redetermination from the Department of Social Services.** The Agencies on Aging support the notification of a *redetermination of eligibility form* from the Department of Social Services.

This notification will ensure:

1. Clients served through the CT Home care Program for Elders are aware of the mandate to comply with requests for documents regarding eligibility;
2. Clients have the support they may require to gather necessary documents and submit them in a timely manner; and
3. Clients receive the additional counseling required to understand and complete requests for information due to dementia or diminished cognitive ability.

We would ask for your consideration by including our Access Agency counterparts, CCCI, Inc. in the notification requirement so that CCCI is also able to serve CT Home Care Program clients in the most seamless and beneficial manner with advance notice of their clients' redetermination requirements. HB5112

Regarding **Raised Bill # 5111, An Act Concerning The Alzheimer's Respite Care Program,** the CT Agencies on Aging strongly support the operation of a program to provide respite care services for caretakers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Over 300 family caregivers remain on a waitlist since an executive order required a moratorium on new clients in May 2009. In many cases, the State's Alzheimer's Respite program represents an investment of one day per week of Adult Day Center funding for an Alzheimer's patient at an annual estimated cost of \$3,500. This is exactly the type of help a family needs to continue to provide around the clock care for their loved one in their home. If even one family chooses nursing facility placement resulting in a Medicaid spend down, the annual cost to the State is estimated at \$67,000. Occasionally, this program offers a family in crisis a small amount of community-services while awaiting an eligibility decision for the CT Home Care Program. The absence of this safety net comes at a time when eligibility