

PA10-014

HB5250

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**H – 1074
CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL.53
PART 2
294 – 594**

rgd/md/mb
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 7, 2010

roll call vote. Members to the chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?
Please check the machine, the board, to ensure that
your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted
the machine will be locked. The Clerk please take a
tally.

And when you're ready, Mr. Clerk, please announce
that tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5251.

Total Number voting	145
Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

The bill passes.

Please call Calendar 49.

THE CLERK:

Also on page 8, Calendar 49, House Bill
Number 5250, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS
AND PAROLES, favorable report by the Committee on
Judiciary.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Lawlor.

REP. LAWLOR (99th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Good afternoon.

REP. LAWLOR (99th):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

The motion is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Representative Lawlor.

REP. LAWLOR (99th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a relatively simple bill. It permits the -- it adds two members to the board of pardons and parole, two part-time members, who are paid on a per diem basis. And it requires that those two new additional members be assigned to the board of pardons to help make decisions in pardons applications.

The reason for this is the workload at the board of pardons and parole in the pardons area has grown

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quite a bit. These people are paid a relatively small amount of money for each day of their service. There is money in the budget to pay for this and I urge passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Thank you, Representative Lawlor.

Will you remark on the bill?

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And again, I would concur with the remarks of the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and point out to the membership that the caseload of the board of pardons and paroles has increased over the last few years.

And it's important that cases be given a careful examination and it's also helpful to the state budget and to the operations of the corrections department that the people who should be out of the system be taken out of there as quickly as possible.

Because each day someone is actually incarcerated, of course, is a fairly expensive proposition for the State of Connecticut. So I would urge passage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

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Thank you, Representative O'Neill.

Will you remark on the bill? Will you remark?

If not, staff and guests come to the well of the House. Members take your seats and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly recorded. If all members have voted, the machine will be closed, locked. The Clerk will take a tally.

Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5250.	
Total Number voting	146
Necessary for adoption	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

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The bill passes.

Mr. Clerk, please call Calendar 147.

THE CLERK:

On page 16, Calendar 147, House Bill Number 5265,
AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPLORATION OF DRIVERS LICENSES
ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, favorable
report by the Committee on Transportation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Graziani.

REP. GRAZIANI (57th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

The motion is acceptance of the Joint Committee's
favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you
remark, sir?

REP. GRAZIANI (57th):

Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I'd like to thank Representative
Mae Flexer for bringing this bill to our veterans'
attention. And basically what this bill does is to
provide a 30-day period for members that are no longer
in Connecticut, whether they be active-duty or out of

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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Thank you, Senator.

So I don't have to be the chair.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 18, Calendar Number 298, File 61,
House Bill 5250, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF
PARDONS AND PAROLES, favorable report of the Committee
on Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR MCDONALD:

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

THE CHAIR:

Questions on passage.

Would you remark further?

SENATOR MCDONALD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, this bill would simply add two
additional members to the Board of Pardons and Paroles
and would require that the number of board members who
must serve exclusively on panels that grant pardons be
increased from five to seven. This bill comes to us
as a recommendation from the chairman of the Board of
Pardons and Paroles.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator McDonald.

Any further remarks on the bill?

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I stand in strong support of this proposal, and I wanted to chat on it very briefly. This was a matter that came before us at the recommendation of Chairman Robert Farr, chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Last year, it was one of those bills that in the final waning hours of the last day of last year's legislative session was not able to cross the finish line, but it is a completely appropriate measure.

These two additional members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles would be dedicated towards handling purely pardon's matters. Currently, the practice is to assign three individuals to those matters but that if one person is unavailable for the date of the hearing then other individuals have to be reassigned. What this will allow is to have -- have three individuals assigned to these pardons hearings with one person as a backup if one of the three underlying members can't attend.

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And this is part of the Board of Pardons and Paroles initiative to go from one of these pardons hearings per quarter to two pardons hearings per quarter, therefore, affording more individuals in the state of Connecticut an ability to obtain a pardon. And this is clearly part of the policy directing -- direction that we are trying to go as a state when it comes to issues regarding the continuum of corrections. And indeed for those individuals who have duly turned their lives around and would like to at least have a hearing on whether to be granted a pardon, should that pardon be granted, it will afford them a clean slate, an ability to go out and perhaps obtain a job much more easily and effectively.

And what we want to do is we want to have a thoughtful criminal justice system that allows and affords individuals, who have clearly turned their lives around a second chance, so that they can completely become productive citizens of our society.

It's a great prospect that we have. I believe that this bill, which was asked for by the Board of Pardons and Paroles, moves us in a very positive direction. I only wish that we were able to get it

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through the legislative process last year. But I'm happy to see that it's at the front end of the list for this year.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kissel.

Will you remark further?

Senator McDonald.

SENATOR MCDONALD:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If there's no objection, might this be placed on the consent calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, the item will be placed on the consent calendar.

THE CLERK:

Calendar page 19, Calendar Number 300, File Number 12, House Bill 5011, AN ACT EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR CERTAIN INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT POOLS, favorable report of the Committee on Insurance and Planning and Development.

(Senator Coleman of the 2nd in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Guglielmo.

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Calendar page 9, Calendar 117, Senate Bill 232.

Calendar page 10, Calendar 119, substitute for
Senate Bill 261; Calendar 124, substitute for Senate
Bill 251.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 149, Senate Bill 244.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 161, substitute for
Senate Bill 258.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 180, substitute for
Senate Bill 152.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 216, substitute for
Senate Bill 256; Calendar 217, substitute for Senate
Bill 201; Calendar 222, substitute for Senate Bill
275.

Calendar page 15, Calendar Number 233, Senate
Bill Number 97.

Calendar Number -- page 16, Calendar 239, Senate
Bill 105.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 270, substitute for
Senate Bill 234.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 296, substitute for
House Bill 5138; Calendar 297, substitute for House
Bill 5219; Calendar 298, House Bill 5250.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 301, House Bill 5263;
Calendar 302, House Bill 5292; Calendar 303, House

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Bill 5265; Calendar 313, substitute for House Bill 5002.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 314, House Bill 5201.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 340, substitute for Senate Bill 175.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 346, substitute for Senate Bill 151; Calendar 350, Senate Bill 333; Calendar 371, substitute for House Bill 5014.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 375, House Bill 5320.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 379, substitute for House Bill 5278; Calendar 380, substitute for House Bill 5452; Calendar 381, substitute for House Bill 5006; Calendar 382, House Bill 5157.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 384, substitute for House Bill 5204.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 395, substitute for Senate Bill 127; Calendar 396, Senate Bill 147.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 413, House Bill 5024; Calendar 414, substitute for House Bill 5401.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 419, substitute for House Bill 5303.

Calendar 32 -- page 32, Calendar Number 421, substitute for House Bill 5388; and on calendar page 34, Calendar 46, substitute for Senate Bill 68;

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Calendar 50, substitute for Senate Bill 17.

Calendar page 35, Calendar 64, substitute for
Senate Bill 187.

Calendar page 37, Calendar 109, substitute for
Senate Bill 189.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 148, substitute
for Senate Bill 226.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 182, substitute for
Senate Bill 218.

Calendar page 41, Calendar 188, substitute for
Senate Bill 200.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed
on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

All right. If the Clerk has made an announcement
that a roll call vote is in progress in the Senate on
the first consent calendar, the machine will be open.
Senators may cast their vote.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to
the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on
the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return
to the chamber.

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THE CHAIR:

Would all Senators please check the roll call board to make certain that your vote is properly recorded. If all Senators have voted and if all votes are properly recorded, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk may take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 is passed.

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege? Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President, for a -- for an announcement.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY
PART 2
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 26, 2010
10:00 A.M.

I -- I'm -- and I'm like a big transparency guy, too. I'm just saying it just seems kind of crazy.

KEVIN BRACE: And this inmate had staff's name that you would never have contact with, like administrative secretaries. It wasn't just correction officers. It wasn't deputy wardens. It was secretaries, mental health workers, kitchen workers, just nobody that this inmate would ever have physical contact with.

REP. LAWLOR: Must not have much to do over at FOI apparently.

KEVIN BRACE: I -- I wouldn't even want to speculate, sir.

REP. LAWLOR: Yeah, well, that's my impression. But sometimes commonsense goes a long way. I'm just pointing that out for -- we see that once in a while. And this seems like -- assuming it's true, and I'll take your word for it that it's true. You know, it's documented. Right?

KEVIN BRACE: I documented it.

REP. LAWLOR: Three and a half hours, FOI? Okay.

SENATOR MCDONALD: Anything further?

Thanks very much.

A VOICE: You too.

SENATOR MCDONALD: Robert Farr followed by Ed Czepiga.

ROBERT FARR: Good afternoon, Representative Lawlor, and Senator McDonald, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neill, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

HB 5250
SB 221

I am Robert Farr, chairman of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. I am here today to testify on Bill 5250, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.

I submitted written testimony, and I'm not going to repeat that testimony. The bill adds two members of the Board of Pardons and Parole to handle the -- our expanded caseload. The language was adopted last year by this committee. Last year the bill passed the House and did not make it through the Senate. There's no cost and it would essentially ex -- spread the workload of the Board.

I'd like to add some testimony that wasn't in written testimony and, that is, a request on Bill 5250 -- I'm sorry -- on Bill 221. I'd like to request the Committee add the coverage to the Board of -- add for coverage to the language to modify this so it would cover employees of the Board of Pardons and Parole as protected employees.

You previously heard testimony from a parole office who is employed by the Department of Corrections for supervision in the community. But the Board of Pardons -- the parole officers who are institutional officers are employed by the Board, and they are located in the institutions and wouldn't be covered by this language.

In addition to that we have parole officers who are -- act as hearing officers and they would not be covered, and the Board itself would not be covered by this language. So I strongly support the language in Raised Bill 221 and would simply suggest you add that that additional coverage.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY
PART 3
671 – 1026**

2010

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
Testimony re: Judiciary Committee Raised Bill No. 5250

An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons & Paroles

February 26th, 2010

Submitted by Robert Farr, Chairman - Board of Pardons and Paroles

Good Afternoon, Representative Lawlor, and Senator McDonald, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Robert Farr, Chairman of the Board of Pardons & Paroles. I am here today to testify in support of bill no. 5250, An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons & Paroles.

This bill would increase the size of the Board of Pardons & Parole by two new members, who would sit on Pardons Hearings only

First, I would like to testify on the need for two new Board Members. The Board hears applications for pardons in each of the four quarters of the year. Three years ago the Board was conducting one hearing in each quarter, in which three Board Members would be assigned to the hearing and another member was assigned as a back-up in case at the last moment one of the assigned members was not available. Because of the increase in volume in applications for pardons, we now conduct two hearings each quarter, which require each member of the Board to serve on a full hearing every quarter and we no longer assign a member to be a back-up. If a Board Member is not available to sit on any of the hearings, another Board Member has to sit on two hearings during a quarter. Four of the five Board Members are employed full-time, and this is an imposition we are trying to avoid. With the addition of two Board Members, we would be able to return to the pattern of having back-up members for every hearing cycle. There would be no additional cost for the two new Board Members because we would still be having the same number of hearings.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Farr

Robert Farr,
Chairman