

PA10-170

HB5244

House	1499-1502	4
Human Serv.	1079, 1086-1087, 1250	4
Senate	4111, 4125-4127	4
		12

H – 1077

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL.53
PART 5
1169 – 1557**

rgd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

143
April 22, 2010

Total Number voting	143
Necessary for adoption	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

The Clerk please call Calendar 119.

THE CLERK:

On page 21, Calendar 119, Substitute for House
Bill Number 5244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF
EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES BY CERTAIN STAFF OF THE
EMERGENCY MOBILE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES PROGRAM,
favorable report of the Committee on Public health.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Vice Chair of Human Services Committee, from
Meriden, Representative Cathy Abercrombie, you have
the floor, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

rgd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

144
April 22, 2010

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

Will you remark?

REP. ABERCROMBIE (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill permits certain licensed clinical social workers, professional counselors and advanced practice registered nurses to issue an emergency certification to hospitalize a child for medical and psychiatric evaluation. Under current law, only physicians can issue such certificates.

Currently what's happening is if a child is in crisis and the EMPS is called out to the home, if a clinical social worker is sent, she cannot authorize a certificate. So she needs to call in the police department to issue that certificate. So this will give them the authority to do that.

It also mirrors statutory language that we have for DMHAS and the adult mental health system, that they have these designees under the EMPS. I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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

rgd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

145
April 22, 2010

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm in concurrence with the remarks just offered by one of the cochairs of the Human Services Committee. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Would you care to remark further on the bill?

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:

Any announcements or introductions?

Oh, I'm sorry. Let's close this one out.

All members voted. The machine will be locked.

All members have voted. The machine will be locked.

The Clerk, please take a tally. Will the Clerk please

rgd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

146
April 22, 2010

announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5244	
Total Number voting	144
Necessary for adoption	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill is passed.

Any announcements or introductions?

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Shortly we will celebrate Husky Day, and the men's and women's basketball teams and the football team from the University of Connecticut will be coming into the Chamber to be introduced.

Just so you know, if you are interested in speaking to them individually or perhaps getting little things signed and that sort of thing, there will be -- they will gather after being introduced in the House and Senate, down in the Hall of the Flags and we are all invited to go down and meet with them

S - 610

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL. 53
PART 13
3842 - 4128**

cd
SENATE

557
May 5, 2010

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, calendar page 10, Calendar 483,
House Bill 5244, move to place on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to place this item on consent. Seeing no

Recess, sir.

That item is on consent without objection.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

Moving to calendar page 11, Calendar 484, House Bill
5383, move to place item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion on the floor to place this item on consent.

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 487, House Bill 5220,
move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion on the floor to place item on consent.

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

cd
SENATE

571
May 5, 2010

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.

cd
SENATE

572
May 5, 2010

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.

cd
SENATE

573
May 5, 2010

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

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HUMAN
SERVICES
PART 4
1072 – 1435**

2010

1
ms/gbr HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 9, 2010
10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMEN: Senator Doyle
Representative Walker

VICE CHAIRMEN: Senator Coleman
Representative Abercrombie

RANKING MEMBERS: Senator Kane
Representative Gibbons

REPRESENTATIVES: Butler, Cook, Coutu,
Flexer, Holder-Winfield,
Jarmoc, Johnston, Lyddy,
Orange, Rigby, Thompson

SENATOR DOYLE: (Inaudible) call to order the Human Services Committee Public Hearing. Sorry for the slight delay, but unfortunately we got a lot of testimony late and our staff was scrambling to try to prepare it. So I'd hope in the future people can try to get it to us early because the late time handing it in delays the start of the public hearing.

With that being said, for the first hour we'll have public officials, and the first public official will be Commissioner Susan Hamilton. After that we go to the public; and just for your information, the public, we limit your speaking to three minutes and after that Legislators are going to ask you questions. If you hear the bell, please try to wrap up and summarize because the goal is to get as many people to speak promptly so people can get home as early as possible. So again, thank you for coming, and Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER SUSAN HAMILTON: Good morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, Representative

HB5271 SB218
HB5244 SB219
HB5196 HB5429
HB5430 HB5443

move forward with the legal proceedings that are needed to provide notice to parents and effectuate the ultimate adoption of the child.

The other -- the next bill is House Bill 5244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES BY CERTAIN STAFF THAT WORK FOR EMPS PROVIDERS. This is also a Department bill; and again appreciates the Committee's raising it on our behalf. In essence what this bill does is to designate licensed clinical social workers who are generally the folks who respond through our EMPS program to schools and other feeder systems that work with that program. It gives them the authority to be able to issue emergency certificates for evaluations of kids when that is deemed necessary.

It's highly unusual for that, frankly, to be necessary when EMPS responds to a school or elsewhere to do an evaluation on a child. However, in the existing scheme when EMPS providers respond, if that is deemed necessary they are not authorized to actually issue that order and effectuate the transfer of the child or the transport of that child to the hospital for the evaluation, thereby requiring the schools and others to notify law enforcement and the police have to respond to the scene to then issue that authorization. What we're finding in practice is that some feeder systems, and I'm just using schools as an example, are bypassing the use of the EMPS program because some feel as if -- if I'm going to need to have the child transported by ambulance for an evaluation, I'm going to have to call the police anyway so why don't I just call them first.

So it's really a means of addressing that gap and again, we don't anticipate that it will be

used all that frequently, but to have the authority to do that I think is appropriate. And that authority mirrors what is available or authorized pursuant to EMPS providers that work in the adult system. They have that level of authority to issue those orders.

Senate Bill 219, AN ACT CONCERNING STATE CONTRACT REDUCTIONS, the Department certainly understands the intent behind this bill. As currently worded, the Department has concerns about the flexibility that contractors would be given under this language to make changes to their approved budgets without requiring the state agency approval. One of the concerns that our Department has with this as currently drafted is that we have some providers who have joint consolidated contracts that include DCF and other agencies. Without requiring state agency approval, there would be the opportunity for funds to be transferred from one agency's services to another agency's services without agency input. So again we would express some concern about that as currently worded.

House Bill 5196, AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT PROTECTION FOR FOSTER CARE CHILDREN, this is another bill where the Department fully appreciates the intent behind it. Again, we have been doing a lot of work in sort of figuring out how to address the issue of, and protect youth, from identity theft, particularly the youth in foster care who because of their involvement with so many different service providers and in some cases numerous different placements, folks have access to their information more so than other children. Information might be more readily available. However in researching how this would actually work, the bill as drafted would require certain notifications to take place and certain information about the child to be



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**Testimony on House Bill 5244: AAC The Issuance of Emergency Certificates By Staff Of The
Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services Program**

Submitted By: Stephen A. Karp, MSW

The National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut chapter is in support of House Bill 5244 and urges its adoption in the 2010 legislative session.

In Connecticut approximately two-thirds of all mental health services are delivered by clinical social workers. Clinical social workers are trained in biopsychosocial dysfunction, disability and impairment of individuals and in Connecticut are recognized for the diagnosis and treatment of such disorders. This training, when added to the specialized training required in this bill, makes licensed clinical social workers fully qualified to issue emergency certificates.

Clinical social workers are often the first responding mental health provider to a child or youth in the community facing a mental health crisis. In cases where the minor is in such a level of crisis that they are a potential threat to themselves or others it becomes critically important that the minor be evaluated in a timely manner at the nearest emergency department. This bill will allow a properly trained licensed mental health clinician, including clinical social workers to issue an emergency certificate that authorizes and directs the minor to be taken to a hospital for a medical examination.

Authoring a minor to be taken to the hospital, whether or not the guardian consents, is a decision that is not to be made lightly. At the same time, if that minor is in crisis to such a degree that such certification is in the child or youth's best interest, it does not make sense to have to delay the certification because the responding clinical social worker or other mental health provider, who is capable of determining the need for a hospital evaluation, is not authorized to issue an emergency certificate. This bill resolves that problem and assures that there is not an unnecessary and potentially dangerous delay in having minors in crisis properly evaluated. Furthermore, having to involve police in the certification may be more traumatic to the minor as these decisions are clinical in nature, not issues of law enforcement.

We urge the Human Services Committee to favorably report this bill out of committee.