

**PA 10-1**

HB5015

House	21-51	31
<u>Senate</u>	<u>34-39</u>	<u>6</u>
		<b>37</b>

**H - 1074**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL.53  
PART 1  
1-293**

**INDEX**

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

21  
February 3, 2010

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you very much. Would you care to remark further? Care to remark further? If not, let me 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 resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified House Bill Number 5015.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified House Bill 5015, AN ACT  
CONCERNING STATE CONTINUATION OF GROUP HEALTH  
INSURANCE COVERAGE, APPOINTMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE  
COMMISSIONS, PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND THE EFFECTIVE  
DATES OF BONDS FOR ROAD RESURFACING, introduced by  
Representative Donovan and Senator Williams.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

I'd like to call on a good friend, Representative  
Cam Staples.

REP. STAPLES , (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

22  
February 3, 2010

I move acceptance and passage of the emergency certified bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on passage of the bill.  
Representative Staples, you have the floor.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us includes some significant provisions around the extension of federal COBRA, COBRA subsidies pursuant to federal law. It also allows the road resurfacing process to move much more expeditiously, moving up that date. It permits an extension of time for certain property tax exemption applications.

And, Mr. Speaker, I move its acceptance and passage.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a question through you, to

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

23  
February 3, 2010

Representative Staples.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Representative Staples, my understanding is we developed the language for this bill. That there is nothing, no concepts, if you will, or programs that are new here. This is not regarding an expenditure of funds, but certainly an extension of various dates and times for purposes of COBRA, road resurfacing, et cetera. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. That's correct. There is no net fiscal impact of the bill before us on the state budget. There are federal provisions we're taking advantage of.

And as you stated, the exemptions were previously approved, and they are just resulting in a potential reallocation of existing funds that have already been approved. So there is no increase expenditure in the bill before us.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

24  
February 3, 2010

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Remark further? Representative Noujaim of the  
74th District.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr.  
Speaker, a question, if I may, to Representative  
Staples?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you.

Representative Staples, I believe a version of  
this bill came before us last year in reference to  
COBRA. And from my understanding is that the employer  
initially would pay part of the cost, which is called  
"administrative expenses," and then the employer will  
then be reimbursed for those costs afterwards. Am I  
correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

25  
February 3, 2010

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that's my understanding. And what the bill before us does is it extends the federal subsidy for eligible individuals under the federal law.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, Mr. Speaker. At the time when this bill was presented last year, I was also under the understanding that the employer would be receiving credit on their taxes, providing that the employer is profitable and they do show a profit at the end of the fiscal year.

But if the employer does not show a profit or profitability, then the employer may not be receiving credits. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That would require a deeper understanding of the implications of this bill than I have. So I will just defer that to another Legislator who happens to have

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

26  
February 3, 2010

more understanding of the way COBRA operates with employers.

The bill before us does not make any changes to those provisions, however. So if your understanding of how it operated last year was such, then I would say this before us only extends the federal subsidy. It does not make any further changes to the way COBRA operates.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, I would like to receive further explanation. Because at the time when this was discussed last year, there were some objections to the fact that employers may have to pay up front, but they do not receive any benefits.

If, let's say, in a year like last year, when there was downturn in our economy and employers were not able to make profits, companies were not able to make profit. If I may request further explanation, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples, you want to relinquish

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

27  
February 3, 2010

the floor and Representative Fontana may have some answers to that.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

I would be happy to defer to Representative Fontana. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Noujaim, if you could ask your -- refer your question to Representative Fontana. He may be able to answer your question.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the risk of being redundant, I will not go back and restate my question. I'm sure Representative Fontana would understand that. If not, I will go ahead and ask it again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Fontana.

REP. FONTANA (87th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, the answer to the gentleman's questions are twofold: First, under the provision of the Federal Stimulus Act of last April, and then the law passed this past December, individuals will pay 35 percent of the cost of their COBRA benefits. And the

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

28  
February 3, 2010

federal government will pick up 65 percent of it.

So in other words, 35 percent of the 102 percent will be covered by the individual, and 65 percent of the 102 percent will be covered by the federal government for an additional six months under the provisions of this federal legislation from December.

To answer the gentleman's second question, according to the IRS.gov website, an employer may recover the subsidy provided to assistance-eligible individuals by taking the subsidy amount as a credit on its quarterly employment tax return.

So as I understand, Mr. Speaker, employers will do so once their employees, and only after their employees or former employees, have provided them the 35 percent premium payment, and then, again, off of their quarterly payroll tax returns.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very appreciative to Representative Fontana's answer. It seems to me that he was very well prepared this time.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

29  
February 3, 2010

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Would you care to remark further? Representative  
Shawn Johnston of the 47th District.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a few questions on the bill; the  
first time I've seen it.

We don't have the luxury of being able to go back  
and look at the public hearing on an emergency  
certified bill to get a little bit more background.

I have a question, through you, Mr. Speaker, on  
Section 19.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. We're changing the  
date that we're allowing the bond authorization.  
We're moving it up from May to January. And I'm just  
curious why we're picking the date January, 2010, when  
today, when we're passing this bill, we're already in  
February.

Have these -- have we already borrowed this  
money, and we're sort of retroactively okaying that,

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

30  
February 3, 2010

or is that date there for a different reason? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker I'm not aware that we've already borrowed if the authorization today would permit that. I think what we're trying to do is just to permit, obviously, the road resurfacing funds to already be accessed and have that available as soon as there's an opportunity to begin road resurfacing.

I think the initial date of May was probably an oversight when we adopted this, because there's an opportunity for this to start, you know, once the spring thaw comes.

This is the authorization. It's just moved up so we can take advantage of the spring.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, a question on the Sections 8 through 14, and Section 15 through 18. The

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

31  
February 3, 2010

fiscal note that we have indicates that there will be a significant revenue increase in these two grants to various municipalities across our state.

And as I remember the budget that we passed, we quite frankly didn't fully fund these grants in the budget we passed. Therefore, as a result of this, all the other municipalities of the State of Connecticut are going to have some sort of a pro rata reduction in these two grants.

They use this, the term "significant revenue increase" when describing the money that will go to the towns that will receive it, but they don't reference significant decrease when they talk about the other towns of the state.

Do we have a sense, through you, Mr. Speaker, of that pro rata reduction to the various other municipalities across the state of Connecticut as a result of this language?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't think there is a better determination available right now than what we have here. And in

part, that's due to what applications are actually submitted.

Many of these -- in fact, all of these exemptions were approved in the budget that we adopted several months ago. But some of the municipalities didn't come forward and take advantage -- or rather some of the affected entities didn't come forward and take advantage of the exemptions; so they're being extended.

The pro rata distribution and reduction will depend on how many come forward, how much they actually obtain from the funds and then, you know, then a calculation is done thereafter about a pro rata reduction.

So there -- I don't think there is an exact dollar amount that we can determine right now. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer.

I'm guessing that we've got some sense of what it is, because our Office of Fiscal Analysis did put the term "significant" in there. I would think, if they

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

33  
February 3, 2010

might have used the term "unknown" at this point, or "potential revenue increase."

Lastly, when would these grant payments go out to these towns based upon the language that we passed today? And is our action today, in the course of an emergency certified bill, to try to meet a deadline for getting that money out there?

In other words, could we not have waited and have a public hearing on this proposal, and then vote in two or three weeks, after we've had a chance to look at it further? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some of these funds have already been let out. And I think that -- I don't think that today's action is specifically tied to another allocation date. But the question will be, once the applications come in, I think it's still unclear whether they'll be tapping into the funds that are available in this fiscal year or next fiscal year, and it would just depend on the timing of the allocation request.

But some of the funds have been let out. I do

not believe that all of them have been let out yet this year. And, you know, the calculations will depend, frankly, on the balance in the fund and on the timing of the application.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer. I'm just trying to get a sense -- and from the answer, I really don't have a sense why this is. I understand some of the other provisions in this bill, why it's before us today as an Emergency Certified bill. But based upon the last answer, I'm not certain I can determine why we need to be acting so quickly today in the manner of an emergency certified bill without a date certain, where the money has got to be out the door.

If the gentleman has any further explanation of that, that might help me.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Mr. Speaker, only that these issues have all been considered during the last legislative session. These

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

35  
February 3, 2010

are not new items we're adopting today. These were considered by the Finance Committee. These were put into the budget that was passed by this General Assembly.

So there's nothing new that we would need to have a hearing on. These have all been looked at, reviewed, and already previously approved by this Legislature.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer.

Quite frankly, if that was the case, each session we could come back here and we certainly wouldn't need to have public hearings on about 98 percent of what we do.

Very rarely are there new issues and new concerns. And quite frankly, each session, based upon different circumstances, especially when it comes to fiscal matters, we review everything and the game starts anew. And we start from scratch and discuss each and every issue.

So the fact that they might have been in a budget that didn't become law because of a veto or another

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

36  
February 3, 2010

reason, certainly, I don't think gives us pause today that we ought to just have an emergency certified bill and bypass a process whereby all other appropriations go through.

So I just have some reservations about what we're doing today here, Mr. Speaker, and I wanted to express those. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a question to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think I share some of the same concerns that my colleagues shares, but Section 8-18 refers to the property tax exemption deadline, and I want to make sure that I understand this fully.

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Does this include the full universe of companies that we had previously addressed, or are we looking at a select group of

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

37  
February 3, 2010

businesses to provide this extension of the tax exemption? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, we are looking at a select group that were scrutinized and were brought forward during the last legislative session.

For those of you who are not aware of how this process works, there is an opportunity for any eligible company to take exemptions under certain programs during a particular window of time. What happens in this Chamber and this Legislature, every single year, many of those companies fail to file their applications in a timely way.

So we have several companies that come forward and ask to be retroactively included in the program. This list is a subset of those companies that have come forward -- or entities, not all companies -- that have come forward and made a case that their application ought to have another opportunity to be submitted.

So this is not every single possible entity that missed a deadline. These are certain ones that have

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

38  
February 3, 2010

been vetted by the committee process who've missed those deadlines, who will be given another opportunity to file those applications.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So am I to understand that everyone of those companies that missed the deadline, that still would like to pursue that exception, will be eligible under this provision? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Yes. That's true. Every company that is -- that meets the criteria of the bill before us will have an opportunity to resubmit their application for a certain defined period of time.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do thank the gentleman for his answers. I share a concern coming from an area with several rural

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

39  
February 3, 2010

communities that, although these dollars that we're looking at are modest -- minimal, I'm -- I, too, am chagrined that we can't identify what that impact is going to be. We do have municipal budgets which have been built around receiving a certain dollar figure. So I will have to weigh that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY (78th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just a quick question, and Representative Staples may or may not be the proper person to answer this, but in reading through this emergency certified bill, I have a question as to why -- what's the emergency in Section 4 that would require it to be taken up in an emergency certified bill? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I guess emergencies, you know, are a term of art and subject to some interpretation.

These commissions are obviously currently operating. There was a necessity on the part of those commissions to fill their vacancies. And rather than wait for the several months that it might take through the normal course of a legislative session to have them properly function, it was determined that we should do that on the first day.

I think it's really just to permit those commissions to operate at their highest efficiency right from the beginning of the session.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Hamzy.

REP. HAMZY (78th):

Thank you, Representative Staples.

And I thought I had a pretty good understanding of what the underlying emergency was with regard to the COBRA -- with regard to be COBRA benefits.

Some of the other things that are contained in this Emergency Certified bill can really not be described as emergencies. Filling unexpired or vacant appointments on boards and commissions in this state, I don't care who they are, can't be classified as emergencies, which would justify bypassing the legislative process and be lumped into an emergency

certified bill.

It's just -- I find it a little disingenuous and I just had to -- want to put that on the record.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Chamber, welcome back. I think, with regard, if I may, on behalf of this side of the aisle, explain that we -- what we have before us is an emergency certified bill with several parts to it.

The first and most important part, for those of us on this side of the aisle, is the extension of COBRA benefits in this very trying time for so many people and their concern about health insurance.

Unfortunately, the bill that's before us is not only about COBRA. It also includes several other provisions. And as you've just heard, there is some uncertainty, in fact, quite some uncertainty with regard to how this will affect our various towns and municipalities.

There is a possibility that any number of our

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

42  
February 3, 2010

towns that we represent will receive less money in this very trying time. There's also concerns with regard to other sections of this emergency certified bill that have nothing to do with the COBRA provisions that are also contained within.

I say this to you for explanation, that as we start a very hopeful session of bipartisanship, understanding and cooperation, the votes on the board might not be reflective of that. But please understand why. That this is an emergency certified bill, one that you would think needs to be taken under consideration, as does the COBRA provisions, has far more to it than just that.

So many of us are put in a position to vote in favor of a COBRA, but potentially take money away from our towns and cities. It is for that reason that you might not see unanimity on the voting board when the vote is taken.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

With the Chamber's permission, Mr. Speaker, for a

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

43  
February 3, 2010

second time on this bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Mr. Speaker, to frame a question to the proponent bringing out this bill, a follow-up question.

Representative Alberts asked if any other municipality in the state of Connecticut, based upon the language we're doing today, could put forth an application to get reimbursed under these two programs. And the answer, as I understood it, was that that was indeed the case, that any other municipality would be able to do that.

And as I further read the language of the bill and look at the fiscal note, in multiple places in the bill they reference each of these towns specifically, and in no place in those sections do I see any language that references a municipality or any municipality in the state of Connecticut "may put forth."

The only language I see references specific towns on line 478, the Town of Watertown, and line 488, the Town of Suffield.

In numerous other lines, we see the Town of

Hartford, West Hartford and New Haven.

And if I saw language that said any municipality or a municipality may submit application, I would assume that that would indeed be the case. But I'm -- but as I read the language, and I'm looking to be corrected if I'm wrong, it appears that only the municipalities listed.

And if the gentleman could clarify that, because it's not clear in my mind based upon his answer to the question.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe what I said was any entity in a town that is referenced in the bill before us. This is a discrete list of entities that are eligible based on a certain tax year and a certain town within which that entity's application will be submitted.

This is not every town. It is not every entity. It is -- they are individual entities that came forward from certain locations in the state and they missed the deadline. This is drafted in such a way to

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

45  
February 3, 2010

permit them to refile. That's all it does.

It's not available for all towns. It's not available for all entities. It is not towns that make this application. It is the entity that gets the property tax exemption in that town, and is eligible for a state grant pursuant to these programs to offset that exception.

So, I mean, I think it's important to state this is a discrete list. They've been fully vetted. It's been preapproved and was -- and became law. This is not a bill that did not become law. It's a bill that became law. But all the applicants didn't submit an application in the window of time that the previous passage of the law permitted; so this is giving them a second opportunity to do that.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer. It clarifies it.

So if a company in a town not listed here missed that deadline and now wanted to pursue that with the town, this language before us, at least today, would not permit that.

It seems to me that if your company is not located in one of these towns, that you would have to come back before this General Assembly in a bill, possibly later this session, to seek that exception. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes. And I will tell you that in my experience in the Finance Committee, companies are not shy about doing so. Every year there are a lot of requests that come through from people who missed deadlines, and every year we approve most of those entities' applications for another shot at the exemption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

I thank the gentleman for his answer.

And the last question based upon that answer.

It's been my recollection that not each and every year has this General Assembly actually approved an omnibus list. And there have been years when money was tight where this General Assembly did not act upon the

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

47  
February 3, 2010

request of the list of companies in certain towns to go forward.

And we've sort of known early in the session, gotten some type of an indication from leadership whether this was going to be a year where some of those applications were going to be allowed to go forward.

Do we have any indication, at this point in the game, if companies come forward between now and the end of session, if that's something that we plan on having an omnibus list ready again? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Staples.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, I can only speak for myself, Representative Johnston, which is that in the Finance committee, where we receive a lot of these applications, we usually do have a bill. And, at some point, that gets reviewed by the leadership on both sides of the aisle to make determination about whether or not it is something that can be afforded that year, and those judgments get made. But I do believe, virtually every

year, we have approved some of these applications.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Johnston.

REP. JOHNSTON (51st):

Thank you very much for your answer. And I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time to further understand this.

There are important sections of this bill I think that are time sensitive that I think are appropriate, that do meet the criteria of being an emergency certified bill.

I, however, come down on the side that there are sections of this bill that are not -- do not meet that criteria, that they need to be acted upon today, and my vote will reflect that today. And then to know the reflected -- of some of the important language of this bill, I think that not a person in this Chamber disagrees with.

So it's somewhat of a procedural quandary for me that I will be voting no, because there are some significant sections of this bill that I can't at all come to the conclusion are an emergency of any sorts.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

49  
February 3, 2010

Thank you, Representative Johnston.

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, to Representative Staples and others for clarifying what this bill is seeking to do.

And I just wanted to make sure people realize that this bill was fully vetted and anticipated by both sides of the aisle. There was discussion, and it was shared with everyone in advance.

And that there are two very important pieces to this bill which indeed are emergencies: The COBRA part, and the part about resurfacing the roads, which will put people to work in a very timely way.

So I just wanted to make sure people understood the context of the bill.

Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Would you care to remark further on the bill?

Care to remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

50  
February 3, 2010

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.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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

Emergency Certified Bill 5015.

Total Number voting	147
Necessary for adoption	74
Those voting Yea	137
Those voting Nay	9
Those absent and not voting	5

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill passes.

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Yes, Representative.

rgd/gdm  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

51  
February 3, 2010

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Yes. Thank you. I move for the immediate transmittal of the previous item to the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion for immediate transmittal of emergency certified bill to the Senate. Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the bill is immediately transmitted to the Senate.

Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the suspension of our rules for immediate consideration of House Resolution Number 2.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you.

It's getting -- I know that was exciting.

Representative Merrill, please.

REP. MERRILL (54th):

Thank you. I'll repeat that. I move for the suspension of our rules for the immediate consideration of House Resolution Number 2.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before the Chamber is on suspension of the rules for the immediate consideration of House

**S – 598**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL. 53  
PART 1  
1 – 285**

**INDEX**

rgd/gbr/mb  
SENATE

34  
February 3, 2010

Number 3 for opening day of the regular session, Wednesday, February 3, 2010, to be acted upon as indicated and that the agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate journal and the Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion to incorporate all items on Senate Agenda Number 3. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, as the first item of business on Senate Agenda Number 3, under business from the House, under Item 1A, Emergency Certification, would ask the Clerk to call emergency Certified House Bill Number 5015.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calling from Senate Agenda Number 3, Emergency  
Certified Bill 5015, AN ACT CONCERNING STATE  
CONTINUATION OF GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE,  
APPOINTMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS, PROPERTY TAX

rgd/gbr/mb  
SENATE

35  
February 3, 2010

EXEMPTIONS, AND THE EFFECTIVE DATES OF BOND FOR ROAD  
RESURFACING.

The bill is accompanied by emergency  
certification, signed Donald E. Williams Jr.,  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Christopher G.  
Donovan, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I would move for adoption of  
Emergency Certified House Bill 5015 in concurrence  
with the House of Representatives, and would yield to  
Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Senator Daily, do you accept the yield, ma'am?

SENATOR DAILY:

I do accept the yield, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you. And through you, Mr. President, I  
would just like to state briefly that there are three

rgd/gbr/mb  
SENATE

36  
February 3, 2010

sections that I'm addressing. Two to seven clarifies terms of legislative commissioners which were added in the budget, eight to 18 re-adopts the property tax exemption deadline waivers that we passed in the budget.

And Section 19 makes the special tax obligation bond authorizations for capital projects involving resurfacing effective on passage and making the funds available earlier in 2010. This is quite important because last year we missed most of the paving season. So to have action on this today is very essential. I urge my colleagues to vote in the affirmative. And I would like to yield to Senator Crisco.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR CRISCO:

Yes, Mr. President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Yes, Mr. President. My remarks pertain to Section 1 of the bill, which provides for corporate coverage, the federal government extended corporate coverage from -- for a longer period of time. We did

rgd/gbr/mb  
SENATE

37  
February 3, 2010

adopt similar legislation last year but then the governor -- the federal government adopted a subsidy plan of 65 percent to help employers with a tax credit which eventually will help employees, which is very significant.

In addition, it was originally only for nine months, but it was extended for another six months. So employees can receive up to 15 months of subsidy. In addition, because we do have a mini COBRA, which pertains to employee -- employers with employees of less than 20, we also provide for that coverage.

It's the most important thing, is that we ascertain that we are in compliance with the federal government. There should be no question in regards to the benefits for the people of Connecticut.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark? Will you remark further on House Bill 5015?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, sir. Good morning.

I just want to very briefly comment on

rgd/gbr/mb  
SENATE

38  
February 3, 2010

Section 19. I want to thank the leadership for bringing this forward today for road resurfacing. It's something that we need to get going on earlier than would have been possible under the prior bill, and this is exactly the right thing to do to help alleviate all -- to help alleviate our job situation, to get some of our construction workers back on the road.

And I also want to thank Senator DeFronzo for his work on this.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Lebeau.

Will you remark further on House Bill 5015? Will you remark further on House Bill 5015?

If not, Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

rgd/gbr/mb  
SENATE

39  
February 3, 2010

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

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of Emergency Certified  
Bill 5015.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The emergency certified bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the Governor of emergency certified House Bill 5015.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor for immediate transmittal of the bill to the Governor. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: