

Act Number: SA10-6

2010

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2010**

**VOL.53
PART 12
3573– 3922**

pat/mb/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

244
May 3, 2010

Senate Bill 320 as amended by Senate "A" in
concurrence with the Senate.

Total number Voting 146

Necessary for Passage 74

Those voting Yea 104

Those voting Nay 42

Those absent and not voting 5

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with
the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number
415.

THE CLERK:

On Page 20, Calendar 415, Senate Bill Number
244, AN ACT VALIDATING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009

REFERENDUM IN THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA REGARDING
REVISIONS TO THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA,
favorable report of the Committee on Planning and
Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Drew, you have the floor, sir.
Good afternoon.

REP. DREW (133rd):

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May 3, 2010

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much. I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate. Will you remark, Representative Drew.

REP. DREW (133rd):

Madam Speaker, this bill is a validating act, which legalizes revisions to the charter of the Town of Columbia, which was approved on November 3, 2009.

The town had failed to properly publish a legal notice in the local newspaper prior to the vote and needed this act to validate the charter. This will actually save the Town of Columbia monies, funds, by avoiding costs of additional referendum to revise the town charter.

There's no adverse fiscal note and this passed the Committee and the Senate unanimously. I urge passage.

Thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill? Will you care to remark further on the bill? Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

As the bill was presented, I believe is a very accurate rendition of what it is. It was an honest mistake by the Town of Columbia for failing to put it in the newspaper. They did have it in the library.

The referendum itself passed by a very large margin and myself and no one on the Committee that I know of has been contacted from anyone that is impacted by this referendum to say that this validating act would not be the proper way to go.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on the bill? Will you care to remark further on the bill? Representative Giuliano, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. GIULIANO (23rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO Number

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4656. I ask that the amendment be called and that I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 4656. May he call and may it be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4656, House "A," offered by Representative Giuliano, Senators Stillman and Coleman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Without objection, Representative.

REP. GIULIANO (23rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This Amendment seeks to revise a section of a 1943 beach association charter, for the purpose of updating its content to bring the beach association's charter into a more modern conformity with the activities and oversights that are typically exercised by beach associations.

The Amendment has no fiscal impact and I move adoption, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption. Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A?"

Representative Drew.

REP. DREW (133rd)

Madam Speaker, we consider this a friendly Amendment. I urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir. Will you care to remark further on Amendment "A"? If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

The Amendment is adopted.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended by House "A"? Will you care to remark further on the bill?

Representative Joan Lewis, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. LEWIS (8th):

I rise to support the bill as amended. As stated previously, the charter is unable to become effective because of the failure of the town to publish the charter in the local newspaper, but copies were available in the library and in the town clerk's office.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, ma'am. Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

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

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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If so, the machine will be locked and the

Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 244 as amended by House "A."

Total number Voting 145

Necessary for Passage 73

Those voting Yea 145

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill as amended passes.

Representative Melissa Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move the immediate transmittal of items acted upon today for further action in the Senate. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The motion is to move the items acted on here in the House to the Senate. Without objection, so ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 387.

THE CLERK:

**JOINT
STANDING
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HEARINGS**

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
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ch/gdm PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010
10:30 A.M.

SENATOR COLEMAN: You too.

Representative Joan Lewis, and I'm informed that Jonathan Luiz will accompany Representative Lewis, as well as Senator Prague.

REP. LEWIS: Good morning, Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey and ranking members. And I first want to thank you for raising Senate Bill 244.

The proposed bill -- you do have my written testimony there -- but the proposed bill seeks to validate the vote cast by the electors and voters of the Town of Columbia at a referendum held on November 3, 2009, relating to revisions to the town charter of Town of Columbia.

Prior to the referendum, the full, updated charter was online at the Town of Columbia's website and paper copies were available at the town hall and at the local library. However, the town officials failed to publish the entire charter in the local newspaper, as is required by state statute, so that, technically, the vote did not happen. This bill will validate the results of the referendum and allow the Town of Columbia to operate under the revised charter.

So I certainly encourage the committee to vote in favor of this legislation, and certainly I support it, and thank you again for the opportunity. And the town administrator, Jonathan Luiz, will be able to give you more detail. And Senator Prague would like to comment first.

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ch/gdm PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010
10:30 A.M.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Senator Coleman and Representative Sharkey, my Town of Columbia goofed. But, for the record, I'm Senator Edith Prague. I thank you for raising my request to make my town legal. Sometimes, towns do everything right and then at the last minute they just forget one little thing. So we're very happy that you're giving us the opportunity to validate the charter. And our town manager came in to explain to you the details of the charter and, you know, how important it is for us to have that validated.

So thank you.

JONATHAN LUIZ: Good morning. I'm Jonathan Luiz. I'm the town administrator in Columbia. I'm here to submit testimony supporting Senate Bill 244. According to the Connecticut Secretary of State's office, the charter at issue was approved by the Columbia voters on November 3, 2009 by a vote of 573 to 351.

As it now stands, the charter is unable to become effective due to the Town of Columbia's failure to meet the statutory requirement of publishing the proposed charter in a local newspaper prior to vote. The failure to publish was an oversight.

The Town did make available, in abundant supply, copies of the proposed charter in both the Columbia town clerk's office, in the local library, as well as on the town website. Copies at both -- at all locations were provided well in advance of the vote on the charter.

I believe that the charter recently voted on makes three notable changes to the Town of Columbia's government. First, the charter

calls for the town's fiscal manager to be hired slash discharged by the Columbia Board of Selectmen and supervised by the Columbia town administrator.

Under the existing charter, the authority to hire and discharge rests with the Columbia board of selectmen and the Columbia Board of Education, and the supervision for that position rests with the Columbia town administrator and the Columbia superintendent of schools.

Secondly, the new charter combines the agricultural and conservation commissions. Currently, those two commissions on their own do not have enough membership to support active business. And third, the charter provides for the board of selectmen to have greater authority with respect to applying for grants.

In consideration of the fact that the changes to the charter are minor, and in consideration of the fact that the Town of Columbia made publicly available ample copies of the proposed charter in the Town clerk's office, the local library and on the town website, I express my support for Senate Bill 244.

Thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Thank you.

Are there any questions for this panel?

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO: Thank you for coming up here and explaining the charter revision issue. What was that -- was there anything published?

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COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010
10:30 A.M.

Were the hearings published, or -- if you can?

JONATHAN LUIZ: Yes. All the public hearings, both of the charter revision commission and public hearings, were the -- at board of selectmen meetings. They were all published and notified properly, in accordance with state statute.

SENATOR FASANO: So the only thing -- so I just -- recap -- what was the only thing not published as per the statute?

JONATHAN LUIZ: The charter, as proposed, was not published in a local newspaper prior to the -- the vote. Although that -- that -- that proposed charter was provided in the various sources that I did mention.

SENATOR FASANO: And people are pretty much generally aware in the town that this was going on and a vote was happening, this awareness with respect to -- as a result of the vast public hearings, and I gather the local paper talking about it?

JONATHAN LUIZ: I believe so. There was an article in the paper, at least one, to my recollection that did cover the charter and the changes that it included.

SENATOR FASANO: Thank you very much.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Are there other questions?

Representative Jen -- I'm sorry Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN: Yes -- the -- you had approximately 900 people vote. What percentage of the voters is that, roughly, of Columbia?

JONATHAN LUIZ: I -- I don't recall. I don't know that answer off the top of my head.

REP. AMAN: Okay. Would that -- the November 3rd election, was that a major election or was that --

JONATHAN LUIZ: Also, on that -- on that election were votes for the first selectmen and votes for members of the board of selectmen, as well as members of the board of finance.

REP. AMAN: So it was a very important vote for -- for the town. It was not a, you know, a special vote just on this.

Also, under the state statute the way it's drawn, were you required to just post the -- the changes or the entire charter as revised?

JONATHAN LUIZ: I think it -- according to my recollection, it calls for a full publication of the charter as proposed or summary of the changes as proposed.

REP. AMAN: Okay. So it's either one. And how long is the entire charter that you have, if the entire thing had to be published? Because one of the things this committee has been looking at is the cost of legal notices in the newspaper for municipalities. So I was curious at how many pages long your charter happen to be?

JONATHAN LUIZ: I'm unsure because the documents that we have floating around are the small document; they're not your standard Microsoft word template with the 12 font, single spaced. I'd venture to say, if this helps, that the publication costs would probably be in the

thousands. And I say that simply because of the experience that I've had advertising for town meetings.

REP. AMAN: Okay. That -- that's where I was really trying to figure out is, what the, you know, the cost to a relatively small town of publishing something like this would be, not only for this situation, but as we're looking at the other legislation.

So, thank you.

JONATHAN LUIZ: You're welcome.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My question was also similar to the costs. So it would be a couple of thousand dollars, you think, roughly?

JONATHAN LUIZ: I -- I -- I believe so.

REP. GENTILE: And Jonathan, would -- would your local newspaper even have the capacity to be able to publish such a document? I assume it's, you know, pages long.

JONATHAN LUIZ: I assume it would have that capacity.

REP. GENTILE: Okay. Would it be able to be read you know, in print that you could see?

JONATHAN LUIZ: I believe.

REP. GENTILE: Okay. Thank you.

JONATHAN LUIZ: I believe, yes.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Other questions?

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Senator Coleman, I'd like to ask a question. I think it's very interesting that you bring up the cost issue. Do you suppose, because the charter was available in the library and in the town hall and people did come to the town meeting and vote on it, so they knew what was in the charter, do you suppose the committee might consider, for not only Columbia, but other towns, not having to publish the whole charter in the newspaper?

The cost of -- you know we're dealing with a bill that says the towns don't have to publish a notice of hearing. They could put it on their website because it's so costly. Do you think that's something the committee might want to consider?

SENATOR COLEMAN: Well, as the questions that were asked by Representative Aman and Representative Gentile might suggest, there are bills like that and, in fact, the package of bills that seek to address what some people perceive to be unfunded mandates. And what you're suggesting, requirements of legal publication in the newspaper, is a part of that package.

SENATOR PRAGUE: So if all -- if that bill passes, would Columbia not have to put the charter in the newspaper?

SENATOR COLEMAN: That's my understanding of the intent of the proposal. Yeah.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay.

SENATOR COLEMAN: But it -- it wouldn't apply to Columbia's situation right now. It would be -- if the bill passes, it would be --

SENATOR PRAGUE: Going forward?

SENATOR COLEMAN: -- prospective.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay. Too bad. But, thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN: You're welcome.

Any other questions?

Representative Lewis, it's good to see you back at the Planning and Development Committee.

REP. LEWIS: Thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Thank you, manager Luiz and Senator Prague.

JONATHAN LUIZ: Thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Representative Theresa Conroy is next.

REP. CONROY: (Inaudible) for the record -- falls on the part of Ansonia. I'm here today on behalf of the first selectwoman from Beacon Falls, Susan Cable, who could not be here today. I have her written testimony. It's in -- for Senate Bill 202.

To the honorable members of the Planning and Development Committee, first let me apologize for not being here but I had a doctor's appointment that I could not change.



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MEMBER
 APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
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 ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
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Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing
Monday, March 1, 2010

Testimony of State Representative Joan Lewis In Support of SB 244
AN ACT VALIDATING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 REFERENDUM IN THE
TOWN OF COLUMBIA REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE CHARTER OF
THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey, Members of the Planning and Development Committee, for the record my name is Joan Lewis State Representative for the 8th District which includes the towns of Coventry, Columbia and Vernon.

First let me thank the committee for raising this bill and the opportunity to submit this testimony. The proposed bill seeks to validate the vote cast by the electors and voters of the Town of Columbia at the referendum held on November 3, 2009 relating to revisions to the charter of the Town of Columbia.

Prior to the referendum, the full updated charter was online at the Town of Columbia's website and paper copies were available at the Town Hall and at the local library; however, town officials failed to publish the entire charter in the local newspaper as required by state statutes so that technically the vote did not happen. This bill will validate the results of the referendum and allow the Town of Columbia to operate under the revised charter.

I encourage the committee to vote in support of this legislation. Again, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony.

Written testimony of
Columbia Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz to the
Planning and Development Committee.
Monday, March 1, 2010
10:30 AM, Room 2b of the Legislative Office Building

Good Morning. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SENATE BILL 244: AN ACT VALIDATING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009, REFERENDUM IN THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA.

I am here today to express my support for SENATE BILL 244.

According to the Connecticut Secretary of State's Office, the Charter at issue was approved by the Columbia voters on November 3, 2009 by a vote of 573 to 351. As it now stands, the Charter is unable to become effective due to the Town of Columbia's failure to meet the statutory requirement of publishing the proposed Charter in a local newspaper prior to vote. The failure to publish in a local newspaper was an oversight. The Town did make available in abundant supply copies of the proposed Charter in both the Columbia Town Clerk's Office and local library. Copies at both locations were provided well in advance of the vote on the Charter.

I believe that the Charter recently voted on makes three notable changes to the Town of Columbia's Government. First, the Charter calls for the Town's Fiscal Manager to be hired/discharged by the Columbia Board of Selectmen and supervised by the Columbia Town Administrator. Under the existing Charter, the authority to hire/discharge the Fiscal Manager is shared by the Columbia Board of Selectmen and Columbia Board of Education, while the supervision of the Fiscal Manger is a duty shared by the Columbia Town Administrator and Columbia School Superintendent. Second, the Charter calls for the combining of the Agricultural Commission and Conservation Commission. Third, the Charter provides the Board of Selectmen greater authority with respect to applying for grants.

In consideration of the fact that the changes to the Charter are minor, and in consideration of the fact that the Town of Columbia made publically available ample copies of the proposed Charter via the Town Clerk's Office and local library, I express my support for Senate Bill 244.

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**CONNECTICUT
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SENATE

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April 21, 2010

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if
there is no objection or further comment, I would move
that the bill be placed on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, for purposes of a change in
marking?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, on calendar page -- page 11,
Calendar 149, Senate Bill 244 that was previously
marked passed temporarily, if that item might now be
placed on the consent calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so -- it shall be so placed.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

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SENATE

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April 21, 2010

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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SENATE

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April 21, 2010

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.

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SENATE

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May 5, 2010

President, move to place that item on the consent
calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 32, Calendar 337, Senate Bill 433.

Mr. President, move to place that item on the consent
calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Continuing, calendar page 33, Calendar 424, Senate
Bill 444, Mr. President, move to place this item on the
consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 34, Calendar 149, Senate Bill 244, Mr.
President, move to place this item on the consent
calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

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May 5, 2010

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Continuing, calendar page 34, Calendar 191, Senate Bill 407, Mr. President, move to place this item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And finally, calendar page 34, Calendar 272, Senate Bill 199, Mr. President, move to place that item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the Clerk would call the consent calendar at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you please call the consent calendar and also make your announcement that the Chair has ordered.

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SENATE

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May 5, 2010

Calendar page 34, Calendar 149, Senate Bill 244;
Calendar 191, Substitute for Senate Bill 405, 407; and
Calendar 272, Substitute for Senate Bill 199.

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

THE CHAIR:

The machine is opened.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting by roll 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.

THE CHAIR:

Will Senators please check the board to make certain
that your vote has been appropriately recorded? If all
Senators have voted and all votes are properly recorded,
the machine will be locked.

Would the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Motion's on adoption Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	35
Those Voting Yea	35
Those Voting Nay	0

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SENATE

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May 5, 2010

Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar 1 is passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of all items on the consent calendar requiring additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

Motion before the chamber is immediate transmittal. Is there objection? Is there objection? Seeing none, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If we might stand at ease for just a moment.

THE CHAIR:

Chamber may stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Would the Senate please come to order?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: