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My nephew Bennett, we usually celebrate his birthday up here, but we weren't in session that day. Bennett just turned five. And my nieces, Joanie and Bridgette, who are eight, and my brother-in-law, Steve and my sister, Tricia.

And your daughter celebrated her birthday yesterday, and while it's not birthday -- while it's not Bennett's birthday today, it is my sister's, so I wish her a happy birthday.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Happy birthday. Nice to see you again. Thanks for coming. Pleasure having you join us here today.

Thank you, Representative. Representative Genga? I think he's gone.

Okay. Thank you, everybody. Nice welcome to everybody joining us here this afternoon. And with that, we're turning to call the calendar, and I ask the Clerk to please call Calendar No. 435.

THE CLERK:

State of Connecticut House of Representatives calendar for Thursday, June 2, 2011. On page 44, Calendar 435, substitute for House Bill No. 6596, An Act Establishing Advisory Committees to the Department of Corrections in Certain Municipalities, favorable report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon.

I move the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark?

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

This is a bill originating in the Judiciary Committee. It came out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously.

This is a bill -- while it talks about the prisons within a municipality, it's really about the people of the municipality. It is about the relationship between the people of municipality and the prisons.

In order to get this bill done, we worked with the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections actually wrote this bill, testified in favor of the bill, and what it does is it establishes

these public safety committees where the concerns of the committee can be addressed back and forth between a community and a local prison within a municipality.

It is a good bill. It forces a positive relationship, and I urge passage.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative.

Would you care to remark further? Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Questions for proponent, please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It would appear that these committees are currently required by law, and my question is why are we -- why is it necessary to take legislative action when the establishment of such committees appear to be already required?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, the good Representative is correct that these committees should be established. They are not established everywhere.

So for a number of years, advocates within different communities, specifically New Haven, Bridgeport and some communities, have been working on establishing these types of committees.

Having talked with the commissioner of corrections and the advocates, we thought it would be good to establish in law that these shall be established, and that is why this bill is front of us today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, is there a -- is there an option under the current law not to establish the committees?

Is that -- is it that we are making it mandatory?
Is that the distinction?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't have the current law in front of me, but I will say I believe that is the distinction, that if you look at line 2 of this bill, the Department of Corrections shall establish, which makes it mandatory.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. I thank the proponent.

I -- I'm not suggesting there's a serious problem with this bill in that it requires the establishment of these advisory committees. I do have some problem with going forward with a requirement that already may exist, and I would have liked to have seen the efforts exhausted to require compliance with the present law before we enacted a new law.

However, on balance, it seems to be a good idea to have these committees. And if this goes ahead to encourage them in places where they don't exist, specifically Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport, then I would support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative. Representative

Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question through you to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

I wanted to say in looking at this bill that it is clear what the Department of Corrections is to do, but I was -- would like to ask a question of what is the expectation, what is the outcome, the expectation that the Department wishes to accomplish on the other side of this.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the question, what the Department is expecting is to better facilitate its relationship with the community in which a prison' may sit.

As some of us know, there is sometimes tensions between a community and the Department. We think establishing a public safety committee where information and concerns can be transferred back and

forth with help with that relationship.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, is there an expectation that the Department will obtain advocates through this particular advisory committee?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. As one of the people prior to coming to the General Assembly who had worked on this, I can say from the people at least in the City of New Haven, I think that the Department would gain advocates for its operations and its existence that they don't currently have amongst people who have been working on this issue for a number years.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Thank you. I thank the gentleman for his clarification, because there is not a whole lot in the

testimony. There's not very much in the bill.

My other question would be, through you, Mr. Speaker, would one of the goals be to -- of these -- this type of advisory committee to look towards finding more volunteers to work in the prisons?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Sawyer, while that is not expressly a part of the bill, again, as someone who has been working on this for a number of years, I think that may be one of the eventual outcomes of passage of a bill such as this.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Thank you. And if the gentleman would kindly describe his experiences where it has been the most positive, I have not had any of these types of experiences in my district, though there are prisons in eastern Connecticut, the one closest to us has just recently been closed.

If you could describe the most positive outcome that these advisory committees have had in the past that we are trying to perhaps replicate in other communities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding. And, again, the City of New Haven is not currently functions in this manner, so I can't speak from personal experience.

But having talked to people in places where the public safety committees actually function, it's my understanding that some of the complaints that otherwise would have arisen don't actually arise because there is a path for communication that does not exist.

I would say that's a very positive and makes the process more expeditious and reduces what -- I think to many of our minds would be claims against the prison that aren't actually of any foundation.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Thank you. If the good gentleman would kindly just describe in line 678 -- actually, continue on through the end of that paragraph, it's an unusual description of who will be appointed to these particular advisory committees.

Oftentimes in legislation what we see is an appointment by the speaker, an appointment by the minority leader, a speaker -- appointment by the president pro tem. And in this particular languages, we have the committee being composed of the warden of the correctional facility and five members appointed jointly by the members of the General Assembly who represent a municipality, so I understand there would be six people from the correctional facility, and then the remaining would be General Assembly appointments?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, again, this language was actually written by the commissioner of corrections and his staff.

The reason why the appointment process and those who are appointed is a little bit different than we've

seen is because it was written that way.

The commissioner of corrections thought about who -- which groups of people from within a municipality could best help to facilitate the relationship we spoke about in the prior question, and it was agreed upon with the commissioner that these people would be those people.

And the members of General Assembly were picked because they best know about the community in which the prison sits.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, sir, because it says appointed jointly by the members of the General Assembly [inaudible] legislative intent, could a member of the General Assembly actually function as one of the members of an advisory committee?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they could,

should they fit into one of the categories described subsequent to that portion of the bill.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAYWER (55th):

Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

A couple of questions of the proponent of the bill, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

The Department of Corrections in this bill is referenced as establishing the committee, but then there's no other reference to any action by the Department once the committee is established, and it doesn't seem like they take an active role in the -- in the committee itself.

And the report goes to the -- the standing committee having cognizance of matters related to Department of Corrections

So my question is, what -- what does the Department do, just initiate the process and then step back?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. If you would look at line 5, the committee shall be composed of the warden of the correctional facility and five members.

The warden of the correctional facility is part of the Department of Corrections, so there is a representative from the Department actually on the public safety committee.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you for that answer. And so the -- the warden, as the agent for the Department of Corrections, initiates the process and connects with

the legislator representing that town or municipality to make the other appointments and then calls the first meeting?

Is that how it would go, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that is how we imagine that this would work.

And then of course subsequent to that, the warden would remain well aware of what's going on, as the warden is a part of the committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And once the committee is impaneled, then during their meetings, the bill says that they would meet to discuss various things -- demographics, policies, practices, programming, reentry initiatives -- and then they would issue a report.

Is there embedded in that -- those lines, 13 through 17 or 18, some suggestion that some advising would occur or recommendations would be made or is

this just a chance --

Is this more like a public hearing process so that they can meet to discuss and perhaps hear concerns raised without actually taking any advisorial or recommending actions?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if you look at the last two lines of the bill, what the committee is actually doing is issuing a report which outlines issue of concern and makes recommendations to mitigate such concerns. So there are actually recommendations coming out of it.

Again, the point of having such a committee is to have a more collaborative relationship than may already exist in these municipalities. And the notion that we would be doing this I think was agreed upon by, again, both proponents and the commissioner of corrections.

But yes, there would be recommendations made.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer.

With regard to the topics of the committee's cognizance, demographics of the inmate population, could they -- would you share for us what you would expect to be some of the aspects of the discussion revolving around demographics of the inmate population?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes. And thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, to be honest with you, I'm not quite sure. I think it would differ depending upon the municipality and how good the relationship is or is not when the public safety committee is constituted.

I think it's possible that many of us here, having listened to the discussions we've listened to about prisons and disproportionate numbers of minorities, that this issue might pop up at some point.

But again, I don't know, because I think it depends on the culture that is already established within the community where the public safety committee

would be established.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I ask that question because I'm sensing that this committee would be impaneled to talk about safety of the municipality with the Department of Corrections facility embedded within it. And therefore, I can understand why reentry initiatives and policies and practices would be valuable to discuss to have an awareness in the municipality of what the concerns would be regarding reentry and release and parole and pardon initiatives for some of the inmates and their anticipated living in the municipality when they were released.

And with regard to that, the policies and practices of the Department, would that be the Department of Corrections?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And therefore, policies and practices of the Department would involve those policies and practices concerning the release, pardon, parole of inmates or would it focus on in-house policies and practices?

And I'm imagining that it would not be as germane to the discussion to talk about in-house policies and practices because the -- this bill is about a public safety committee, and I assume that's more germane to when the inmates are released.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative LeGeyt. Your line of thinking is correct.

It is imagined that this bill is speaking to the relationship established between a Department of Corrections and those people who would be appointed to the public safety committee as it pertains to the prison which sits within a municipality.

Therefore, again, we don't limit what could

possibly be spoken about amongst the committee. I think part of this is about transparency overall.

But what we intend to have conversations about and raise concerns potentially about is that prison that sits within a municipality.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One last question. How long -- how long -- would there be a turnover process or how long would a committee be impaneled for before it was time to reappoint?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, and I apologize for this, I cannot get my computer up, so I couldn't get to the current statute that actually talks about some of these things.

But this impanelment would actually follow, as Representative Hetherington said earlier, what we already have in statute. This just ensures that municipalities that aren't already in play here become

in play, so through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the cochair of the Judiciary Committee for his answers and for enlightening me on the -- the legislative intent behind this bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Aman of the 14th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Looking at the bill, it has a lot to do, obviously, with municipalities, and therefore I'm concerned about how the interrelationship between the prisons and the residents of a town where it's located, of course, are very important.

So I do have a few questions for you, Mr. Speaker, that I'd like to direct to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. It's been talked about a couple of times, but I'm still not clear.

There is an advisory committee going to be established. Unless there's a public safety committee, I'm wondering why we're setting up a new committee and then just saying yes, you have to do what the current law says and adding duties to the public safety committee rather than having two different committees now doing the same function.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And I may have actually missed the point of your question, but I'll make an attempt to answer your question.

I think the "unless" speaks to the fact that some communities already have committees that function; and second, the matter that we've been discussing here, and of course the communities that don't would have these committees.

It has been an issue for some communities that

has been going on for a while. We have been unable to get these committees established.

And so in discussion with the commissioner of corrections, the notion that we should probably have these for all of the reasons that were lined out -- lined up earlier, transparency, the ability to get concerns addressed, quite frankly, not to have people standing outside of prisons protesting, as has happened in my municipality, New Haven, before, that was expressed to the commissioner as important.

The commissioner agreed -- the commissioner actually wrote this language, thinking that this was the best way in order to address it, and we bring this bill before the committee -- the House this morning.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

I thank you for your answer. In line 3, it talks about a correctional facility, which I think is a very -- pretty much of a very general term. And so I think there's two questions regarding those two words, a "correctional facility."

One, approximately how many are there within the State of Connecticut, which would give an idea of how

many committees would need to be formed?

Also, if a correctional facility -- what is meant by that? Obviously a full prison, but does it also include some of the transitional programs that people are housed in, et cetera, or even in the facilities that they may be held in before being sent to Somers, Enfield, et cetera.

So if I could just have it -- just flesh out a little bit about what "correctional facility" means in this particular context.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker. The intent at least of those who sought to have this bill was for places where people would be within a Department of Corrections for extended periods of time. So generally there, we really are referring to prisons.

As to the number, I don't know what number already have and don't have. I do know that there are places -- such as, again, my municipality, which is the City of New Haven -- where this is not in effect.

And so -- so I don't know exactly what the number is at the current time that don't have it, but I do

know that there are places where we should have them currently and don't have them, and that's how we get here.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th): `

So I do gather that it's for people that are for an extended period of time that they're going to be there.

The prison facilities, when I look down at the -- what they're supposed to be looking at -- and I understand especially why the delegations from the major cities are interested in this, but yet I look and see that two of our major prisons are out in Enfield and Somers, and it appears that the local representatives from that area are going to be setting up the committee even though it's well known that most of the inmates in those prisons are not from the communities.

And I'm just wondering why it's being set up that the people appointing to the advisory board don't better reflect where the prison population actually resided prior to conviction.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think perhaps there are two reasons why that might be the case.

One, there's a limited number -- a very small number of people who are actually on the committee. I'm not sure that it would actually be possible to reflect the diverse areas from which people can potentially have come to be in the prison.

The other reason is what this bill really is dealing with is the relationship between those who live within the municipality and the prison which sits within a municipality.

If we're dealing with that relationship, those who know those people the best are people who represent those people, which at least for this -- from the state's perspective would be those people who are members of the General Assembly, as the bill indicates.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Again, I thank the Speaker for it. It talks

about the warden being the member of it. And I know that in Planning and Development, one of the things we've had to go through and change was because we wrote that the chief executive officer, the Mayor or the First Selectman had to serve on committees, and what we found is that they didn't attend. They were too busy doing other functions, so they decided that this was one thing they didn't have to do.

And we have solved that by adding a designee. This one is written very clearly that it has to be the warden themselves that serve on this committee.

And since it came -- I heard that a lot of the language did come from the Department of Corrections, I'm wondering why they didn't put in "or designee" for the wardens, since I've got to believe that in a list of things to do, this would not be extremely high on the warden's list of items.

And with four meetings a year, it would be very -- the committee would lose its function if the warden had to miss one or two meetings of the board.

So through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering why the word "or designee" was not added there since it was obviously purposely not put there.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, just for clarification, the way that the bill comes about is there's been a bill being attempted for years. I took that bill, gave it to the Commissioner of Corrections and asked him to write what he thought would be the best way to actually do this.

Therefore, buying -- of course getting his buy-in, because it's his language. So this is language that comes exclusively from the Department of Corrections.

Why there is not an exception for a representative or a designee, I believe it is because of Department of Corrections -- who wrote this language -- feel that they can handle this and feel that it is important for the warden to have a relationship with the members of the community because of what can happen if there is not that relationship established.

Through you, Mr. Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, I think that does clarify that part of it. The -- again, the appointing authority is the members

of the General Assembly that service that community.

And I can understand in New Haven where you have several representatives and several senators.

However, in the prisons that are located in a more rural area, you're really asking one senator and one representative to make the appointments.

And I just wanted to make sure that that was the intent, that the appointments would really be made and set up by a group of representatives, really by one or two.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Chair. The intent is as the language indicates, that it is the representatives of the municipality in which the prison sits. So if there happens to be one or two, those would be the appointing authority, so you are correct.

Through you, Mr. Chair -- Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. Lines 13 and 16 talk about what the report should include, and it looks like it's a fairly large,

fairly complicated thing to write; but I unfortunately did not pull up the financial notes on it.

I'm just wondering what support and staff support this committee is going to be receiving and where that money is coming from.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Mr. Speaker, if you give me a second. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is -- if you look at the fiscal note on this, there is no financial impact. That is because there is no support given here.

This is, again, an establishment of the committee that does use the warden, but it's really just a matter of the people from the committee who are volunteering their time should they be appointed.

So there is nothing that the state or the municipality is giving, unless they should choose to because they see this as valuable.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

So if I -- from what the statement is, if the warden wants to support staff or wants to supply research help to the committee, it would somehow come from the prison budget of that particular warden.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I suppose if the warden chose to do such, that would be the case. But this bill does not mandate that anything like that happen.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. The other thing that I -- I'm a little confused on is that it says the committee will report not less than quarterly, which to me sounds -- or meet no less than quarterly, which to me sounds like it's ongoing committee. And yet the legislation is very clear that they want one report on or before January 1, 2012.

Is it the intention that this committee continue to meet indefinitely into the future or do they meet

from now to 20 -- January 1, 2012, issue their report and go out of existence?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and that's another good question asked by Representative Aman.

Yes, it is imagined that this committee will continue similar to the public safety committees already established. They meet not less than quarterly also.

The January 1, 2012 date is to establish what the primary or first report date would be.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. And therefore, I take it that the intent would be that the committee would continue to operate and issue reports on an annual basis or some other periodic basis that the committee itself would decide on, but we would not specify in legislation.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, again, this bill brings us so that the municipalities that don't currently have public safety committees will have it, which indicates that the current law should be followed, which is that annually there will be a report established.

So when these committees become ongoing, they would fall in line with what is already the process, which is an annual report.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the proponent. I think his answers were very clear. It allowed the bill to be much better understood by those of us who did not serve on the committees where this bill came through and was discussed.

So I thank him very much for his information.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir. Further on the bill?

Representative Smith of the 108th. You have the floor, sir.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Just one question for the proponent of the bill,
if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed.

REP. SMITH (108th):

In some of the answers to Representative Aman,
there was a question about the type of facilities --
the correctional facilities that are to be interpreted
under this bill. And in Danbury, for instance,
there's a federal correctional institution, but it's
federal, not state.

So through you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent,
would the federal correctional institution apply to
this bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intention of
this bill is to date with state -- the State
Department of Corrections, so the answer to your

question would be no.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir. Representative C. Davis of the 57th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. C. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to see you [inaudible].

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you very much.

REP. C. DAVIS (57th):

Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I represent two communities that directly neighbor, Southfield, Enfield, Summers. And through you, to the proponent of the bill, you know, in our community, we have many members that are -- or residents that work at the prison, work with prisoners when they get released.

And I was just wondering, through you, Mr. Speaker, if anybody in these adjacent communities would be able to serve on these committees.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, just a question back to the questioner to make sure I actually answer the question accurately.

Are you asking me that a person may sit in one municipality but someone from another municipality -- could they be appointed to a committee for a municipality in which they are not a resident?

Is that the question?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Davis.

REP. C. DAVIS (57th):

Yes. These -- these residents would live in another municipality but work within the prison system, so they would have an intimate knowledge of the safety concerns, perhaps, of the prison in the surrounding community but they are not actually residents of the municipality where the prison currently sit.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

So I think that may be -- through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry.

I think that may be captured in line -- the end of line 9, going into line 10, speaking about local enforcement agencies who have experience with people who have been in prison and things of that nature.

The one representative shall represent the local law enforcement agency, so -- and I may be answering your question incorrectly, but I'm attempting to.

I think that would encapsulate those people who you are imagining.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Davis.

REP. C. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So through -- and in that line, as you just noted, a local law enforcement agency, just to be clear, would that include the -- perhaps the corrections officers that are members of the Department of Corrections in that community?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well, actually, I think it might not -- it might not capture them.

But again, the warden from that community is involved with the committee, and I would suggest that the warden therefore could have ongoing discussions with correction officers at the prison and therefore have their concerns addressed to the committee.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Davis.

REP. C. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the kind gentleman for his answers. They were very succinct and clear and I thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And I thank you, sir. Representative Carter of the 2nd district, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. One question to the proponent of the bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Has this model ever been tried with the federal prison system, by any chance?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do not know the answer to that question. What I do know is we have this model in place in some of the prisons within the state, so we do have some history there.

But I cannot answer that question. That's beyond my knowledge.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I thank the Representative for his answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

I thank you, sir. Representative Adinolfi of the 103rd, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I have a question for the proponent of the bill, maybe two questions.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Representative Holder-Winfield, does this bill make it mandatory for the town to do this?

And let me just explain that. I've lived in Cheshire for 32 years. I also represent them. We have a prison advisory board consisting of five members appointed by the town council. They meet quite regularly, and they've done a lot of good things for the town and for the prisons.

Some examples are we set up a warning system through the computer system, through the police department and the prison where the people that live in the community would have beeper and be notified of a prison escape.

And although I think this bill is good and the committee's good, I'm a little bit disappointed that we would be superseding something that's been working well for 31 years.

We also have a separate public safety committee, and working on an informal basis at regular committee meetings with the wardens and so on. The only people that haven't been included and there's been a problem there is the -- the correction officers union wanted to attend the meetings and apparently it wasn't in our charter and we haven't changed the charter for that issue.

But they had been working well, and I would be disappointed if we had to disband what we're already doing, this work.

So can you help me out with that?

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I -- recognizing your concern, which is a very good concern, we don't want to overturn anything that is working well.

So if you would take a look at line 3, going into line 4, talking about the establishment of these public safety committees, there is an "and in which a public safety committee has not been established pursuant to the section of the current law."

Your public safety committee, which is longstanding and operating very well, has been established pursuant to the current section of the current law and would not be affected by the passage of this bill.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make it clear. We have two committees. We have a public safety committee and we have a prison advisory board that are completely separate from each other, and I'm worried about the prison advisory board since they've been doing such a good job over the years and they may be forced to change their makeup.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the bill only establishes a public safety committee in a place where there isn't currently a public safety committee.

If you have in addition to the public safety committee a prison advisory board, this bill does not touch that. It does nothing to eviscerate what you have working well right now.

And I would say that you are safe and will be able to continue doing the good work you've been doing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI (103rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

I'm very satisfied with your answers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

We aim to please, sir.

Representative McCrory of the 7th.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Just some clarification, listening to the discussion as it's going back and forth, this bill clearly states that these committees should be established in communities that do not currently have them, i.e., Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport; is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Proceed.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

To Representative McCrory, yes, this bill establishes the public safety committee in those communities in which they are not currently established pursuant to the current law, yes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative McCrory.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So therefore, I think it's a great bill. I think we should support it. It provides an opportunity for communities to house inmates, especially in those three neighborhoods where many of those people who live in those neighborhoods are housed.

It provides opportunity to work on reentry and other forms of programming inside. So therefore, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative McCrory.

Representative Bacchiochi of the 52nd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the bill, but I do have a question,

through you, to the good vice chair of Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

I'm sorry, I think I'm repeating a question, but I was struggling and couldn't hear this.

My community, which houses prisons, does have a committee such as in Cheshire, and that is established under Public Act 93-219. Those are the prison safety committees that are currently established.

And I believe what you were saying was committees such as the one in my town will not fall under this bill either now or into the future.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, the good representative does understand correctly. Your public safety committee, which is already established pursuant to current law, is not affected by the passage of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

So through you, Mr. Speaker, the reporting requirements and the selection process are different under the public act that I am -- my towns are working under, so at no point in the future does this bill supersede the requirements that are being used today.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, the good representative does understand correctly. At no point in the future does the passage of this bill change any of the requirements that your public safety committee currently operates under.

What you operate under now you will continue to operate under.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Bacchiochi.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do want to say that this model has been used very successfully in Summers. It has opened doors of communication between the people who live in the town and around the prison community, so it is my hope that a similar model used

in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven will be met with similar success.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, madam.

Representative Yaccarino of the 87th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. YACCARINO (87th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill, but I do have one question for the proponent, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. YACCARINO (87th):

The -- the people from the community, will they act as mentors for the prisoners or just advisors for the community?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Holder-Winfield.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD (94th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. This bill does not deal with the possibility of a mentorship program. I think that could be a potential outcome of discussions between the community and the warden.

It shouldn't be something that was agreed upon,

could become improved on, but this bill doesn't deal with that directly.

What this bill deals with is, are those members of the community who have become representatives are able to express concerns and issues that the community might have. And it creates a process that, as Representative Bacchiochi illustrated very well, has worked in other places, increased the notion that there is transparency and facilitated a relationship between a municipality and the prisons.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87th):

I think it's a good thing. I think in time that's -- by nature that will happen be, and I support this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, sir. Further on the bill? Further on this bill?

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll

call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked.

Will the clerk please take a tally. And would the clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6596.

Total number voting	145
Necessary for passage	73
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	0
Absent Not Voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill passes.

Are there any announcements? Are there any announcements?

Representative Cafero of the 142nd district, Norwalk. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for purposes of an introduction.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY
PART 10
2951 – 3284**

2011

REP. FOX: Are there any other questions?

Thank you, once again.

Next is Leo Arnone.

Good morning.

LEO ARNONE: Good morning.

Good morning, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee.

In -- in an effort to keep our comments short today, we actually had five bills that we submitted written testimony on. We'll only speak on two.

We are in support of -- 6596, Advisory Committees, 1183, inmate requests for public records, and 1180 prison library standards.

The two that we'll be commenting on are 6597, conditions of confinement, and 1182, concerning inmate medications.

Our written testimony on those issues will stand, and what I'll do on 6597 is just highlight some of the issues that we're very concerned with.

(SB1035)

6597 will limit my discretion to place inmates in appropriate facilities, and jeopardize the -- safety of staff, inmates, and good correctional order. It will also limit my ability to use bed space in segregation.

Prison administrators are responsible for maintaining internal order and discipline, securing their institutions against unauthorized access or escape, and for rehabilitating, to the

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY
PART 12
3606 – 3933**

2011

Department of Correction

Testimony of Leo C. Arnone, Commissioner

Judiciary Committee

Raised Bill No. 6596, *An Act Establishing Advisory Committees to the Department of Correction in Certain Municipalities*

March 21, 2011

Good morning, Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Leo Arnone, Commissioner of the Department of Correction. I am here this morning to speak in support of Raised Bill No. 6596, *An Act Establishing Advisory Committees to the Department of Correction in Certain Municipalities*

Raised Bill No. 6596 would provide the residents of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven -- municipalities that host a correctional facility but do not have established public safety committees-- with a voice to express concerns about the correctional system and the inmate population. Regular meetings between representatives of the community and the facility warden to discuss inmate population, agency policies and procedures, facility programming, reentry initiatives and other issues, will help develop and maintain a collaborative partnership that will benefit both the facility and community.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this matter

S - 632

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 21
6546-6914**

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SENATE

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Moving now to calendar page 31, Calendar 619,
House Bill Number 6634.

Madam President, move to place the item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing calendar page 31, Calendar 627,
House Bill Number 6596.

Madam President, move to place the item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Moving to calendar page 32, where we have 4
items. The first is Calendar 629, House Bill Number
.5634.

Move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed...

THE CHAIR:

I would ask the Chamber to be quiet please so we can hear the call of the Calendar for the Consent Calendar.

Thank you.

Please proceed, Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on calendar page 5, Calendar 336, House Bill 5697.

Calendar page 7, Calendar 421, Substitute for House Bill 6126.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 449, Senate Bill 1149.

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Calendar page 10, Calendar 470, Substitute for House Bill 5340. Calendar 474, Substitute for House Bill 6274. Calendar 476, House Bill 6635.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 499, Substitute for House Bill 6638. Calendar 500, House Bill 6614. Calendar 508, House Bill 6222.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 511, House Bill 6356. Calendar 512, Substitute for House Bill 6422. Calendar 514, House Bill 6590. Calendar 515, House Bill 6221. Calendar 516, House Bill 6455.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 517, House Bill 6350. Calendar 519, House Bill 5437. Calendar 522, House Bill 6303.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 523, Substitute for House Bill 6499. Calendar 524, House Bill 6490. Calendar 525, House Bill 5780. Calendar 526, House Bill 6513. Calendar 527, Substitute for House Bill 6532.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 528, House Bill 6561. Calendar 529, Substitute for House Bill 6312. Calendar 530, Substitute for House Bill 5032. Calendar 532, House Bill 6338.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, Substitute for House Bill 6325. Calendar 534, House Bill 6352.

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Calendar 536, House Bill 5300. Calendar 537, House
Bill 5482.

calendar page 18, Calendar 543, House Bill 6508.

Calendar 544, House Bill 6412. Calendar 546,
Substitute for House Bill 6538. Calendar 547,
Substitute for House Bill 6440. Calendar 548,
Substitute for House Bill 6471.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 550, Substitute for
House Bill 5802. Calendar 551, House Bill 6433.
Calendar 552, House Bill 6413. Calendar 553,
Substitute for House Bill 6227.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 554, Substitute for
House Bill 5415. Calendar 557, Substitute for House
Bill 6318. Calendar 558, Substitute for House Bill
6565.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 559, Substitute for
House Bill 6636.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 563, Substitute for
House Bill 6600. Calendar 564, Substitute for House
Bill 6598. Calendar 566, House Bill 5585.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 568, Substitute for
House Bill 6103. Calendar 570, Substitute for House
Bill 6336. Calendar 573, Substitute for House Bill
6434.

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Calendar page 24, Calendar 577, Substitute for
House Bill 5795.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 581, House Bill
6354.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 596, Substitute for
House Bill 6282. Calendar 598, Substitute for House
Bill 6629.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 600, House Bill
6314. Calendar 601, Substitute for House Bill 6529.
Calendar 602, Substitute for House Bill 6438.
Calendar 604, Substitute for House Bill 6639.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 605, Substitute for
House Bill 6526. Calendar 608, House Bill 6284.

Calendar page 30, Calendar number 615,
Substitute for House Bill 6485. Calendar 616,
Substitute for House Bill 6498.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 619, Substitute for
House Bill 6634. Calendar 627, Substitute for House
Bill 6596.

Calendar page 32, Calendar 629, House Bill
5634. Calendar 630, Substitute for House Bill 6631.
Calendar 631, Substitute for House Bill 6357.
Calendar 632, House Bill 6642.

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Calendar page 33, Calendar 634, Substitute for
House Bill 5431. Calendar 636, Substitute for
House, correction, House Bill 6100.

Page 34, Calendar 638, Substitute for House
Bill 6525.

Calendar page 48, Calendar 399, Substitute for
Senate Bill 1043.

Calendar page 49, Calendar 409, Substitute for
House Bill 6233. Calendar 412, House Bill 5178.
Calendar 422, Substitute for House Bill 6448.

Calendar page 52, Calendar 521, Substitute for
House Bill 6113.

Madam President, that completes the item placed
on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

We call for another roll call vote. And the
machine will be open for Consent Calendar number 1.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll on the Consent
Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the
Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll on the
Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to
the Chamber.

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SENATE

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Senator Cassano, would you vote, please, sir.

Thank you.

Well, all members have voted. All members have voted. The machine will be closed, and Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally?

THE CLERK:

Motion is on option Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

We might stand at ease for just a moment as we prepare the next item..

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)