

PA 11-212

HB6559

Finance	854-855	2
House	7056-7067	12
Senate	7169-7170, 7176-7178, 7182- 7183	<u>7</u>
		21

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**FINANCE
REVENUE
AND BONDING
PART 3
560 – 883**

2011

have a carrying -- annual carrying cost over the eight years of between a 100 million and 110 million dollars per year. If you allocate on a load share basis, having the municipals pay that would provide about \$6 million per year.

That \$6 million could also be used to offset the energy efficiency diversion, because you have some other customers who aren't paying the tax now, paying it. That provides some additional room to use the existing -- or to lower the diversion of the energy efficiency funds by, you know, perhaps, \$6 million.

So the total -- the total energy efficiency charge produces about \$30 million a year. This diversion took about \$10 million of it, so combining all of these pieces, you could, I think, probably, fully restore the funds.

REP. BUTLER: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. WIDLITZ: Are there any other questions from the committee?

Thank you very much for your testimony.

RICHARD SODERMAN: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Bonnie Stewart, followed by Robert Ronan and William Gray.

BONNIE STEWART: Good morning. My name is Bonnie Stewart. And I am vice president and counsel for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

I have submitted written testimony today on Senate Bill 1157 regarding the Energy

HB6559
HB6562
HB6586
HB6560

Conservation and Load Management Fund, which we support that measure, as well as 6559 regarding the ability of municipalities to send out tax bills electronically, and on House Bill 6562, the Capital Debt Advisory Committee, which, again, we also support.

In addition to that, House Bill 6586 is another measure that we would support with modification. We do believe that something needs to be done to start to address the state's indebtedness, our unfunded liabilities where the pension plans are concerned, et cetera. But we think more should be done than just this dedicated stream. And we would encourage any surplus dollars to go to addressing those issues, whether it be the rainy day fund, pension plans, or indebtedness.

The measure that I am here to express our opposition to is House Bill 6560. This is the measure that would require the Department of Revenue Services to disclose specific taxpayer information when it comes to any credits, deductions, or exemptions that were taken.

Unlike what you were led to believe earlier, I will tell you that there is no state that requires taxpayer specific information to be shared, including Wisconsin and Illinois. Those states that do require disclosure are more like what we have currently through our tax expenditure reports that the Office of Fiscal Analysis put together for you currently.

Requiring a company to share the information with the Department of Revenue Services, and then -- and then have them share that taxpayer specific information does require problems for

H – 1112

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
PART 21
6898 – 7240**

lg/sg/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

29
June 3, 2011

Representative Roy.

Representative Roy is deferring at this point.

All right.

It seems like we have a lot of guests here today joining us so let's move on with the business -- not in a casual manner as referred to by Representative Hovey.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 345.

THE CLERK:

On page 41, Calendar 345, House Bill Number 6559, AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO SEND MUNICIPAL TAX BILLS VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL. Favorable report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Widlitz.

Representative Widlitz, try it now.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

It's on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on acceptance of the Joint committee's favorable report and passage of the

lg/sg/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

30
June 3, 2011

bill.

Will you remark?

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Mr. Speaker, representative Ritter has done a tremendous amount of work on an amendment that I think he is about to call.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Hello.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Hello, how are you?

REP. RITTER (1st):

Top of the afternoon to you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

(Inaudible.)

REP. RITTER (1st):

And thank you to the Chair of the Finance Committee for bringing the bill out. Obviously, her credibility is -- is important here, and it's much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment LCO

lg/sg/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

31
June 3, 2011

Number 8247 and I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment and that I'd be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize, please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 8247, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 8247 House "A" offered by
Representatives Ritter, Kirkley-Bey, McCrory, et al.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment.

Any objection?

Hearing none, Representative Ritter, you may proceed.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

And basically what this bill does is it only effects the City of Hartford. It is a bill that concerns revaluation and touches upon that and various components in the bill. It also allows our residents the ability to petition budgets of

referendum if there are tax increases that they deem too high, which is currently not applicable to them in the city charter.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on adoption.

Will you remark further?

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment. I think Representative Widlitz and Representative Ritter for their hard work on this issue, and I certainly understand the challenges that the City of Hartford has faced over the years with this tax structure that they have set up. I think it is something that has pleased the business community. I know that Representative Ritter worked very hard with the Metro Hartford Alliance and others in the business community, and I would urge adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Care to remark further?

Representative Kirkley-Bey.

REP. KIRKLEY-BEY (5th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to thank Representative Ritter and all the members of the Hartford delegation for the hard work they've done on this. I'd like to say I've aged at least 14 years in this process, but I'm glad that we finally have a bill that we all agree on just about and we could bring it out. And I hope everyone will support the bill.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you Representative.

Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to laud the efforts of Representative Ritter and bringing this forward. As a freshman legislator, he tackled one of the most difficult issues I think the City of Hartford has faced in many, many years. His perseverance and persistence in bringing people back to the table over and over and over has brought us to where we are today in agreement on this bill.

So thank you, Representative Ritter, and I encourage everyone to support the amendment, which becomes the bill.

Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you Representative.

Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, sir.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Do I understand you correctly that this legislation will override the local charter with regards to -- well, override the local charter?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

That is correct and in a certain circumstance of a tax increase over a certain percentage.

When the charter revision was done that was eliminated back in 2001. And the belief is that there are certain instances where we don't need to it, but there are certain thresholds and, again, it's been a long negotiation as been alluded to earlier. That we believed that -- that right, that -- that fundamental democratic principle should be in play here and that's why we did that.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentleman for his response. I understand that there's been a tremendous amount of negotiation around this issue. I, personally, believe though that the local charter should control this kind of activity. And I understand that in certain situations where you may have a tremendous number of people and different entities with different ideas about things that you really can't move forward under your charter. But I do -- it

lg/sg/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

36
June 3, 2011

does cause me concern that we, as a body, would be imposing our will, kind of, over the local charter but I thank the gentleman for his answer.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative Hovey.

Care to remark further on the amendment?

Care to remark further on the amendment?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Roldan.

REP. ROLDAN (4th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I stand, first of all, to thank the work that my colleagues have done for what appears to be what a significant amount of time. The last six to eight months have been extremely difficult, a lot of discussions, a lot of

negotiations. And it is truly the result of much hard -- hard work.

However, at this point, Mr. Speaker, I sometimes, as it is in the process, you have to respectfully agree to disagree.

This bill, personally, I believe does very little to help the people of Hartford recognize the circumstances that make up cities. Mr. Speaker, this bill starts at the conclusion that residential taxes will go up significantly over the next five years. Homeowners in Hartford will see dramatic increases, which could lead to as much as 10 to 20 percent over the next five years. Renters who can afford to pay the lease in the city will also feel the impact of this particular measured approach.

Mr. Speaker, this bill helps big business the most. Big businesses who, in some cases, are generating record profits at this time. They will see their taxes go down over the same period of time by an almost of equal or greater amount. Mr. Speaker, once again, I applaud the efforts of my colleague, but, at this point, I will be voting against the measure. I really feel truly strongly about this, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to thank my colleagues once again and thank the ladies and gentleman of the Chamber for indulging me for this second.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative McCrory.

REP. MCCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I think this is a great bill that we're going to embark upon and hopefully pass. It's been a lot of hard work by all the members of the delegation, leading this charge has been the freshman legislator, Representative Ritter.

It's the opportunity for the taxpayers in the City of Hartford to have a voice in regards to how taxes should be levied against them. It's a collaboration with big, small businesses and residential. And I think it's something that we need to pass and something that we should look forward to. Again, having that opportunity for taxpayers to have a voice in how -- how much money should be spent in their city and how that money

lg/sg/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

39
June 3, 2011

should be allocated is very important.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I -- I ask my
colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Thank you very much.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as
amended?

Would you care to remark further?

If not staff and guests, please come to the
well of the House, members take their seats. The
machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll
call, members to the Chamber. The House of
Representatives is voting by roll call, members to
the Chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members have voted? Have all the
members have voted?

Representative Betts, have you voted?

Thank you.

If all the members have voted, if all the
members have voted, the machine will be locked.

lg/sg/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

40
June 3, 2011

The Clerk will please take a tally.

Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the affirmative.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Berger in the affirmative,
please.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 6559 as amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A".

Total Number Voting	138
Necessary for Passage	70
Those voting Yea	132
Those voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	13

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 221.

THE CLERK:

On page 8, Calendar Number 221, Substitute for
House Bill Number 6305, AN ACT CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN. Favorable

S - 633

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 22
6915-7208**

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

566
June 8, 2011

House Bill 5068. Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also Calendar page 18, Calendar 628, House Bill 5008; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also Calendar page 18, Calendar 633, House Bill 6489; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, Calendar page 19, Calendar 640, House Bill 6559; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

567
June 8, 2011

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also Calendar page 19, Calendar 635, House Bill 6351; 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 20, Calendar 642, House Bill 6592 -- I believe --

A VOICE:

It's 65 --

SENATOR LOONEY:

-- that might be --

A VOICE:

-- 95.

SENATOR LOONEY:

-- 6595 --

THE CHAIR:

Five.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 478, House Bill 6488; Calendar 480, House Bill 5256.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 513, substitute for House Bill 6557.

Calendar page 12, Calendar Number 535, substitute for House Bill 6226; Calendar 555, House Bill 6259.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 560, substitute for House Bill 5368; Calendar 567, substitute for House Bill 6157.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 574, substitute for House Bill 6410; Calendar 578, House Bill 6156.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 591, House Bill 6263; Calendar 594, substitute for House Bill 5508; Calendar 595, substitute for House Bill 62 -- 5263.

Calendar page 16, Calendar Number 606, substitute for House Bill 6581; Calendar 609, substitute for House Bill 6501.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 610, substitute for House Bill 6224; Calendar 613, substitute for House Bill 6453.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 614, substitute for House Bill 5068; Calendar 628, substitute for House Bill 5008; Calendars 633, House Bill 6489.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 635, substitute for House Bill 6351; Calendar 640, House Bills, 6559.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 642; House Bill 6595.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 645, substitute for House Bill 6267; Calendar 648, substitute for House Bill 5326; Calendar 650, substitute for House Bill 6344.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 651, substitute for House Bill 6540.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 655, substitute for House Bill 6497; Calendar 657, substitute for House Bill 6262; Calendar 658, House Bill 6364; Calendar 659, House Bill 5489.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 660, substitute for House Bill 6449.

Calendar page 36 -- correction -- Calendar page 33, Calendar Number 390, substitute for Senate Bill 1181.

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

575
June 8, 2011

Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 481, House Bill
5472.

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 584, substitute
for House Joint Resolution Number 34; Calendar 585,
substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 54;
Calendar 586, House Joint Resolution Number 65,
Calendar 587, House Joint Resolution Number 66.

Calendar page 38, Calendar 588, House Joint
Resolution Number 80; Calendar 589, House Joint
Resolution Number 63; Calendar 590, House Joint
Resolution Number 35; Calendar 620, substitute for
House Joint Resolution Number 45.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 621, substitute
for House Joint Resolution Number 47; Calendar 622,
House Joint Resolution Number 68; Calendar 623,
substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 69;
Calendar 624, substitute for House Joint Resolution
Number 73.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 625, substitute for
House Joint Resolution Number 81; Calendar 626, House
Joint Resolution Number 84.

Madam President, I believe that completes the
items placed on Consent Calendar Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

cd/lg/sg/mhr/gbr
SENATE

579
June 8, 2011

Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

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.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes?

If all members have voted; all members have voted? The machine shall be locked.

And, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of 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 passes.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Senator.

The Senate will come to order.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5, dated Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Copies have been made available.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.