

PA 11-226

SB0417

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I'd like to make a motion to move all actions by the House that have not been acted upon to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

That would be all items passed by the House requiring further action in the Senate to be immediately transmitted, Madam?

REP. TALLARITA (58th):

That is correct, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Without objection? Without objection? So ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 574.

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 574, Senate Bill Number 417,  
AN ACT ELIMINATING THE LIMIT ON TEACUP RAFFLE PRIZES,  
Favorable Report of the Committee on Finance, Revenue  
and Bonding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila, you have the floor, sir.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill would eliminate the current \$250 limit on the value of prizes offered in teacup raffles. Mr. Speaker, we received testimony during the public hearing that charitable organizations are still struggling to raise sufficient funds to take care of all the good things that they do. And they asked that we pass a bill eliminating the cap. And that's what this bill would do.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 6083. I would ask that the Clerk call the amendment and that I be permitted to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the Clerk please call LCO 6083, previously designated Senate something or other.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6083, Senate "A," offered by Senator Duff, Representative Cafero, et al.

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The Rep (sic) seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Without objection, please proceed.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Senate Amendment would establish a new category of charitable raffles to be known as a golf ball drop raffle. And what a golf ball drop raffle is is a raffle in which an aerial vehicle such as a helicopter or perhaps a hot air balloon would drop numbered balls on a target and the one that lands closest to the target would be the winner.

And Mr. Speaker, I would move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of Senate "A." Further on Senate "A"? Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Julita, please prepare yourself. Madam, please proceed.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment that establishes this gold ball raffle refers to a Class number 6 designation. Do you know what other games might fall under this designation or is that designation deemed because it's a nonprofit organization?

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the ranking member of the Public Safety and Security Committee, there are various classes of raffles and as you move up in class from one through six, two things happen. The period of time that you have to conduct the raffle increases and the amount of the aggregate prize value increases. In the case of a Class 6 category raffle, the period of time that you would have to conduct the raffle is one year and the maximum prize value would be \$100,000. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Okay. And according -- I thank him for his answer. And according to the fiscal analysis that we have, there -- they state that it will have a revenue

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gain to municipalities and it will also have a revenue gain to the special -- the Division of Special Revenue. Would you happen to know how -- what percentage may go to a municipality that hosts this kind of an event?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. No, there was nothing in the fiscal note to indicate what the percentage would be. I believe that would be in accordance with either the statutory scheme for these types of raffles or it would be in the regulations for the special revenue department. But I can tell you that the potential revenue gain appears to be due to increased permit fees that would be remitted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a permit price that is put on these events?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that the statute includes a permit fee, but I do have the statutes in front of me and if we could pause for a moment I may be able to get that.

Mr. Speaker, Section 7 dash -- through you, Mr. Speaker to Representative Giegler, Section 7-176 of the General Statutes would provide that in the case of a Class 6 permit the permit fee would be \$100.

In fact, this answers your prior question -- \$50 to be retained by the municipality and \$50 remitted to the state.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee for his answer.

Just one other question. In this bill the Division of Special Revenue is responsible for the regulation. Under the proposal that we've done for the implementer bill, is it not true that now the Division of Special Revenue will now be under the Department of Consumer Protection?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.



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REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (138th):

And through this there are a number of investigators that -- or special agents that go around to these venues. Do you know -- I know now, I don't think there are that many available individuals that are performing this function. Will the Department of Consumer Protection now be responsible for supplying the oversight of these events?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that -- and I think that we're all kind of learning as we go along in terms of learning how the consolidations and the reorganizations are going to work. But the Department of Consumer Protection would have now overall responsibility for that.

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Representative Giegler.

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REP. GIEGLER (138th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Vice Chair for his answers. On the amendment before us, I support in that I think it's a good means by which our nonprofits can raise revenue, which is so important at this time. And I thank -- thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons of the 150th, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good evening.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

If I may, please, through you, a couple of questions to the proponent of the amendment, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that you said that this amendment was going to allow something called a golf ball drop raffle. Is that correct, please? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, yes. It would be known as a golf ball drop raffle.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, if I understood you correctly, you had said that these golf balls could be dropped on a field from a helicopter or from a plane or -- is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. The examples that we were given in the statute and it was by way of example was helicopter, hot air balloon or similar type of hovering aircraft.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you. I thank the Representative for his answer. I guess I'm a little confused because in most areas where schools are, they're residential areas or

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they're in towns or villages or cities. And I'm surprised that a helicopter or hot air balloon would be allowed to hover over a field.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, could you explain that a little further, please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The proposed amendment does not specify the particular type of area where the golf ball drop raffle would occur. But in its oversight function and in reviewing the application for the permit by the charitable organization I am confident that the Department would ensure public safety in so approving the application.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

I thank the gentleman for his answer. And again, through you, Mr. Speaker, have there been any towns that have actually used this raffle and if so, could you elaborate on that, please? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There are no towns that I'm aware of who have conducted this type of raffle yet because it hasn't been approved yet in statute by this General Assembly. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. And from whom or what agency would one get a permit to do this? Through the town or through the state or both? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The applicant would follow the statutory scheme that involves both the town and the state agency overseeing it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, I'm just trying to imagine in my mind a helicopter

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hovering 50 or 100 feet or more above a field and what the effect is going to be of dropping a hundred or a thousand golf balls on that field and how they're going to go bouncing all over. I don't see how any safety permit could ever be given for this type of a raffle. Through you, Mr. Speaker. Could you please elaborate on that?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There isn't anything more that I can do to elaborate on that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Well, in our town we do have cow chip raffles so I guess it's much better to drop golf balls than the alternative.

But, through you, Mr. Speaker, I guess we do need to think of all kinds of possibilities to raise money for our nonprofits and especially for our schools. I'll be interested to see how this progresses, see which towns are allowed to or given permits for this golf ball drop raffle. And we'll see where it goes

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from here. I thank the gentleman for his answers and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Gibbons.

Representative Betts of the 78th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Through you, a few questions for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Proceed, sir.

REP. BETTS (78th):

I like the idea and you said many nonprofit organizations had asked for this. I was wondering, I looked at the public hearing testimony and I only saw one person testify. Were there other people that had submitted testimony over this? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would request from the good Representative some clarification on the question. Does the question relate

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specifically to -- to the amendment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

That would be true, as well as the  
underlying bill itself, either one or both.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Well, since we're  
still on the amendment and the amendment has to do  
with the golf ball drop, I will address the question  
with that in mind, but I would -- I would ask now that  
the good Representative  
repeat the entire question.

REP. BETTS (78th):

I was just -- if I could, through you, Mr.  
Speaker. I was just simply asking was there any kind  
of hearing or reference dealing with the golf ball  
raffle, and if there was, was there any discussion  
about needing insurance or liability for this.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. JUTILA (37th):



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Through you, Mr. Speaker. There was no testimony in the public hearing before the Public Safety and Security Committee on the -- the golf ball drop raffle as that was an amendment that was adopted in the Senate.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Okay and I'll save my other questions for the bill after the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

Further on Senate "A". Further on Senate "A". It's my understanding Senate "A" regards a golf ball drop. Further on Senate "A"? Representative Smith of the 108th, you have the floor on Senate "A".

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. If I may, a few questions to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

On Senate "A", please proceed.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. I'm just wondering if there's been any discussion in terms of how high up in the air the golf balls are dropped from. Through you, Mr.

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Speaker.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment only makes reference to a drop from a helicopter, a hot air balloon or other aircraft hovering above a designated target. There is no specified distance in the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And thank you for that answer. So based on that answer then, one could assume that the golf balls could be dropped from ten feet or 3,000 feet. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That would be correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, do we know how wide of an area that the golf balls would be falling in terms of how far they would spread out in terms of

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being dropped from a helicopter or airplane? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would assume that the sponsoring organization would want to drop them from a height and on a target large enough to ensure that they at least get a winner. Other than that, there are no specifications.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you for that answer. And if the Representative knows, is there any immunity for the organization who may be sponsoring the event dropping these golf balls? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing in the amendment that would provide for any immunity. It's certainly possible that immunity would be available through some other unrelated statute or

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through other operation of law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And thank you for that answer and I know the -- the amendment refers to a couple of statutes which is Title 7 which I haven't had a chance to look at and I'm not sure whether those particular statutes would provide the immunity or if those statutes would provide any type of requirement that these types of events be insured by the sponsoring organization. So my question is if the good Representative knows whether insurance would be required under those statutes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pretty familiar with the statutory scheme and I do not recall any reference to an insurance requirement in them.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you for that answer. And just to get more specific about the actual event, does the Speaker -- or I'm sorry -- does the good Representative know, Mr. Speaker, whether the golf balls that are being dropped are plastic or real? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There is no specification on the type of material that the golf balls would have to be made of. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And I know -- and I know from other type of events there are times when you have to purchase or lease the equipment from the State of Connecticut when conducting certain types of raffles. Does the good Representative know whether or not the golf balls would have to be either purchased or leased through the State of Connecticut? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker. The only requirement is that they be golf balls and that they be numbered. The amendment does not specify that they would have to be obtained through any State agency.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you for that answer. And I'm wondering whether the State of Connecticut would provide or in any way be involved with the -- the devices used for dropping the golf balls, such as the hot air balloon or the plane or the helicopter, if they're in any way regulated in terms of what type of device it may be other than what's stated in the -- in the amendment. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

I'd need a question, Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

I'll try to rephrase that. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. So the question is does the State of Connecticut provide in any way or become involved with the regulation of the device used to drop the ball other than what's in the amendment? Through you, Mr.

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Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. In answering this question, the answer also actually could apply to the last question. As I look at the amendment, Subdivision 2 does give the executive director of the Division of Special Revenue the authority to adopt regulations in accordance with Chapter 54, so I would say that those regulations could include some of these specifications that have -- have been -- that have given rise to some question. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you for that clarification. Then I would assume also, in terms of the target that's being placed on the ground, that may also be subject to the regulations that could be adopted in the future. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree that that certainly would be possible. It would depend upon how specific the executive director desires to be and what the Regulations Review Committee would find acceptable.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And yes and thank you for that. And as the bill stands, or states before us tonight, the only language that I see in quickly reviewing the amendment is the word "target" and the target is not otherwise defined. So the target could be anything from a, you know, three-foot wide circumference circle or a hundred-foot circle or something of that nature. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would say that that's correct, again, unless the -- the executive director decides to get more specific than that in the regulations and they are ultimately adopted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:



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Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And I was wondering, through you, Mr. Speaker, whether or not any thought has been given to the event that might result on a wet field when these golf balls are dropped from 100 feet or so and they are plugged and unable to be located at the time of the event. Has there been any discussion of that potential circumstance? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again this amendment was adopted in the Senate and I -- I can only read it and give you my best interpretation of it and I can tell you that there is not any language that would address that situation and I'm not sure that it would be necessary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Well, having hit a few golf balls that unfortunately plugged over the years, I can attest to you that it's very likely to occur, especially when

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dropped from an airplane on a wet field. So the --  
point I'm making is there's a lot of indications here  
that this needs to be studied a little bit more. I  
think it's a great idea to give our nonprofit  
organizations an opportunity to make some more money  
in different ways and I think good ideas and -- and  
different ideas are always welcome and I applaud the  
effort. I'm just not sure that we're there yet in  
terms of how this could actually be functioned without  
some potential consequences. So I thank you for the  
time and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Smith.

Further on Senate "A", the golf ball amendment.  
Representative Carter of the 2nd District, you have  
the floor, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few questions for  
the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment -- the  
amendment does sound like a good idea, but I want to

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make sure we do due diligence in asking some of the questions. Specifically, do we know if there's any special kind of certification required through the FAA to do these? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. It's getting a little loud. I couldn't hear the question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter, would you care to repeat your question?

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I would, Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question through you, Mr. Speaker, is are there any special certifications through the FAA that we have to do to make sure this goes off safely? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Again, none in the amendment and I wouldn't have the expertise to address

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whether or not the FAA would have any requirements.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of a couple of FAA rules, specifically though, you have to maintain 500 feet above any person or object that otherwise would require a special waiver. Through you, Mr. Speaker, wouldn't it make sense to put in this Legislation something about making sure the organization or the pilot for the organization complies with FAA federal regulations? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that whoever is operating the helicopter would have responsibility for ensuring that they meet whatever FAA requirements might apply.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the gentleman for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

Further on Senate "A"? Further on Senate "A"? Representative Alberts of the 50th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just an observation. We've had a little bit of time here to do some research, and as Representative Carter alluded to earlier, there are regulations in terms of height restrictions. From what we could determine, according to FAA regulations the -- any plane would have to have a minimum of 500 feet above the ground and this pertains to the amendment that's in front to us. Helicopters may have less than that altitude as long as the jeopardy of the public is -- is -- the safety of the public is not jeopardized.

So just for the purpose of Legislative intent, I know that in lines 37 through 40 of the amendment we are proposing, that there will be regulations adopted. For the purpose of Legislative intent, would the proponent agree that -- that the Gaming Policy Board

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working together with the Division of Special Revenue  
would ensure that FAA regulations would be adhered to?  
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I would say that -- I  
would agree that that would be a prudent thing to do.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do think this is a  
very good amendment that's before us and the bill will  
be good. I do want to advise people, however, that if  
they're looking for something safer, we always have  
the old, good standby in eastern Connecticut of cow  
chip raffles and bingo and, you know, we're happy to  
provide some guidance on that if members want to learn  
more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Alberts. Did you have  
a 1-800 number with that as well?

Representative Betts of the 78th on the -- the

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golf ball amendment or on the bill as amended?

REP. BETTS (78th):

Just on the amendment. Just an explanation and to say that I support it. I also, too, just did some -- research and I found out the hot air balloons were commonly used for this. I watched it on YouTube. It looks quite safe and therefore I would certainly support it and think it would be very helpful to nonprofits that are looking to raise a lot of money. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

Further on Senate "A"? If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed? The Ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted. Further on the bill as amended?

Representative Dargan of the 115th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just briefly. Minority Leader Representative Cafero, I found one of

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your golf balls if you'd like to come and get it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Dargan.

Further on the bill as amended? 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:

Time is getting late. Please try to stay close to the Chamber. Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Evidently not.

Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. Clerk, please take a tally. And would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 417 as amended by Senate "A" in concurrence with the Senate.



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|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Total Number voting         | 144 |
| Necessary for passage       | 73  |
| Those voting Yea            | 135 |
| Those voting Nay            | 9   |
| Those absent and not voting | 7   |

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Bill 417 is adopted -- adopted in concurrence  
with the Senate. Passed.

(Chamber at ease.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

We have visitors this evening? Former Representative Richard Ferrari visiting over there with Representative Miller. Hi, Representative, how are you? Nice to see you. Thanks for stopping by. Always great when the alums come back.

Will the House please come to order. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Frey, 111th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FREY (111th):

I notice we have a little downtime here so I thought I'd take an opportunity to fill it for a second. Just for a point of personal privilege,

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY AND  
SECURITY**

**PART 2  
319 - 658**

**2011**

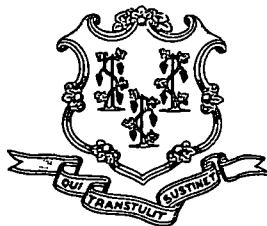
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*Chair*  
Government Administration  
& Elections

*Vice-Chair*  
Public Health; Veterans' Affairs

*Member*  
Appropriations

**Testimony to Public Safety & Security Committee**  
**SB 417 An Act Eliminating the Limit on teacup Raffle Prizes**

Good Morning Chairwoman Hartley, Chairman Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today regarding the laws related to gaming and charitable organizations.

I am here today representing myself as well as the concerns of the Milford Hospital Auxiliary, a group of volunteers who organize the annual "Festival of Trees" fundraiser to benefit Milford Hospital. For the past 35 years, The Festival of Trees has been a widely attended and integral part of the Milford holiday celebration and raises much needed funds to support our local hospital. Here is how it works: people donate Christmas Trees and other people donate the trimmings which consist of themed items, gift certificates and the like. For example, one tree every year is the fire truck tree and is covered with beautiful fire trucks and toys. There may be as many as fifteen trees in the Hospital's main lobby that the community comes to view during the holiday season. Other items are also donated in addition to those that adorn the trees. Throughout the time of the event, people can purchase raffle tickets to place in the container that corresponds to the tree or prize that they want. There is a drawing event that is well attended by the community as well as the local press. They draw the winner of each item and everyone goes on their merry way.

In 2009 the Auxiliary was cited with violating the gaming statutes because, amongst other things, each tree was worth more than \$100, there were gift certificates on the trees, and they did not take out enough permits to cover the value of the donations. They were cited because they reported that they were expecting to have 60 prizes and due to the generosity of the community, they ended up with over 80 prizes donated. They tried to work with the Division of Special Revenue to address the violations. Ultimately, I had a meeting with them and DSR and we jointly came to the conclusion that there is no way for them to legally continue with this event because the permitting process does not have the right "category" for them to fit into. So, they

tried to change the event to conform to the law and it was a flop. The most frustrating part of this experience was the fact that during these economic hard times when the state has no money, the DSR sent a state agent to watch the raffle for four hours. So not only are we hurting our charitable organizations that are trying to support our towns, we are wasting taxpayer dollars in having state agents drive around the state with their mileage reimbursed to take down on a piece of paper that Mary Smith won the blue toddler bicycle.

At the same time the Auxiliary was trying to work with DSR, they looked around the state and found many other organizations that were having the same type of tea cup raffle, who were not being subjected to the same scrutiny. Some of those organizations had permits and some had just completely ignored the law because they couldn't possibly conform to the requirements. A review from OFA shows that revenue from permits are down significantly over the past several years and I would suggest that it is because the permitting requirements are not reasonable any more.

In response to this concern, the Public Safety Committee was kind enough to move HB 5340 AAC Prizes for Teacup Raffles, out of Committee. Ultimately, Public Act 10-132 amended the statute (Section 7-185a(e)) so that gift certificates were acceptable prizes and the hundred dollar limit on prizes was increased to a two hundred fifty dollar limit. While we are pleased by this improvement, it is a very slight change and did not achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating the financial limit on teacup raffle prizes.

Although the Division does not support an unlimited value on prizes, its concern is unsupported since the Division would maintain its role supervising and monitoring raffle activities to prevent abuse and fraud. Residents of Milford and surrounding towns have shown tremendous support for a change in the statutes to reflect this. After the Auxiliary was forced to reconfigure its Celebration of Trees event, 720 supporters signed a petition asking the State to increase the maximum value of prizes at a Tea Cup Raffle to \$1,000.00.

Second, I ask that the law allow for some flexibility in the number of prizes listed on the permit. Last year, the Auxiliary expected to have 60 prizes, so that is what they put on the permit. When they ended up with 88 donations, the state penalized them for their success rather than allowing for a supplemental report or other reasonable option.

Third, I ask that the length of time during which a tea cup raffle may occur be extended from the current ten days to fourteen days. Connecticut's charitable organizations believe that having two weekends to fundraise would be of significant benefit.

Finally, any help with simplifying the permitting and reporting requirements would be extremely helpful to our charitable organizations. Just a quick look at Section 7-182 is enough to make anyone decide not to bother with trying to comply. The organization has to provide a verified statement in duplicate that shows the amount of the gross receipts, the number and price of the tickets sold, each item of expense incurred or paid, each expenditure, who they paid, the net

profit and what they used the net profit for. Then the police or the First Selectman sends the statement to the ED of DSR who keeps it on file for a year. The PTA still has to keep the copies for a year also. This is all in addition to the fact that we have state agents diligently attending local teacup raffles and writing reports on who won what. And by the way, the application for the permit isn't even available on line. Suffice it to say that the laws regarding permitting and reporting for charitable organizations are complicated and onerous.

Our PTA's, auxiliary clubs, church groups and other charitable organizations are really struggling with this unnecessary and counterproductive bureaucracy. When times are so tough, we rely on those charitable organizations to fill in the gaps in our communities. I hope you share my view that the state should not be making it harder, in fact impossible, for them to do their good work. I thank you for your time and attention and I will help in any way I can to address this. If you have any questions, I would be happy to try to answer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Gayle Slossberg

14<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL. 54  
PART 13  
4045 - 4358**

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I have a point of personal privilege. I have to declare what a privilege and honor it is to sit beside Senator Kane.

And I also want to announce that the Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow, 30 minutes prior to the start of the first session.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes; thank you, Madam President.

I've got a couple of more items to mark that I am hopeful move with dispatch. The first is Calendar -- Calendar page 28, Calendar -- Calendar 59. Also Calendar page 38 -- excuse me -- Calendar page 28, Calendar Number 59; Calendar page 38, Calendar 351; and, Calendar page 30, Calendar 143.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to Calendar page 28, Calendar Number 59, File Number 43, Senate Bill 417, AN ACT ELIMINATING THE -- THE LIMIT ON TEACUP RAFFLE PRIZES; Favorable Report of the Committees on Public Safety, and

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Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Good evening, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening.

SENATOR HARTLEY: .

I -- I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's  
Favorable Report, Madam, and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acceptance on -- on approval of the bill. Please  
-- please go ahead.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, very much, Madam President. Yes, I --  
I feel like you do at this point.

The bill actually before us this evening, Madam  
President, is really all about ingenuity and  
creativity, and particularly regarding our  
not-for-profit agencies, which work so hard to remain  
viable and try to find ways to do the great work that  
they do, and in particularly in these most difficult,  
economic times. And so the bill simply would  
eliminate the limits on prizes that they would be able



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to offer in one of their money rising events, which --

THE CHAIR:

Ladies and gentlemen of the -- of the -- of the Circle. Ladies and gentlemen, can we keep our voices down so that Senator Hartley can be heard?

Thank you.

Sorry to interrupt, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, I want everyone to hear about teacups, and -- and, as I was saying, this will allow them an opportunity to raise additional money by removing what hitherto for was a -- a limit of \$250.

Madam President, I -- the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, and that is LCO 6083. And I would ask the Clerk to please call and that I be allowed to summarize, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 66 -- 6083, which shall be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A." as offered by Senator Hartley, of the 15th District, et al.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Madam President, I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption.

Will you remark?

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes, Madam. Thank you, so much.

And this is in vein with the same conversation with allowing not-for-profits to have opportunities to raise additional funds. It is a very innovative and creative suggestion, and what it would allow is for what may be best described as a "golf ball drop." And that is another way of raising money; it's, I should say, kind of a Fairfield County thing.

But it's an opportunity, once again, to allow our not-for-profits to remain viable, and I move adoption, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further?

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you.

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I want to thank Senator Hartley for bringing out this bill and for the bipartisan support I know this amendment has received. This is a -- another creative way of raising funds for very needy organizations in the state.

And looking on-line, this is being done in many other states across the nation, so I urge adoption of the amendment.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

I'll try all your minds. All in favor, please say, aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? The amendment is adopted.

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, very much, Madam President.

And I don't know that we are starting another Consent Calendar, but if indeed we are, I would ask

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that this be considered for the Consent Calendar,  
Madam.

A VOICE:

(Inaudible.)

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Well, since there's been an objection, I will ask  
the Clerk to please call for a roll call vote, and the  
machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes, will you vote on the bill, sir?  
(Inaudible) not.

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?  
The machine will be locked.

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

THE CLERK:

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Motion is on passage of Senate Bill 417, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A."

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Total number voting         | 35 |
| Those voting Yea            | 32 |
| Those voting Nay            | 3  |
| Those absent and not voting | 1  |

THE CHAIR:

The bill has been passed.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 351, on page 38, File Number 566, substitute for Senate Bill 982, AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT TRUANCY CLINIC IN WATERBURY, AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT SCHEDULE "A," LCO 5541. Total -- Favorable Report on the Committees on Children, Judiciary, and Education.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you. Good evening, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening.

SENATOR GERRATANA: