

PA 11-233

SB1127

Appropriations	5005D	2
House	9862-9867	6
<u>Senate</u>	<u>7002-7036</u>	<u>35</u>
		<b>43</b>

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**APPROPRIATIONS  
PART 16  
5005A – 5240**

**2011**



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY OF  
PETER M. GIOIA  
VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 11, 2011  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA would like to comment upon the following bills we support -- SB 1127, SB 1128, SB 1129, SB 1130, HB 6522, HB 6521, HB6523, and HB 6524. CBIA is encouraged that these bills permit the committee to seek detailed data on which agencies have exceeded authorized appropriations as well as review of the cost-effectiveness and priority of programs in major agencies and budget areas. CBIA feels this added information will assist the committee in making ever-increasingly sound budget decisions. We encourage the committee to also put in place review processes such as Results Based Accountability (RBA) to ensure a steady annual flow of outcome measure information to best guide the committee in its deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL.54  
PART 29  
9635 – 9973**

pt/tj/lxe/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 958, in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number voting 147

Necessary for passage 74

Those voting Yea 147

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 4

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill is passed.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Sir.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

I move for the suspension of our rules for the  
immediate consideration of Calendar 640, which is  
Senate Bill 1127.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is for suspension of rules for immediate  
consideration on House Calendar 640. Any objection?  
Any objection? Hearing none, the rules are suspended  
for immediate consideration of House Calendar 640.

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Will the Clerk please call House Calendar 640.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 1127, AN ACT CONCERNING  
EXPENDITURES OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS OTHER THAN THE  
GENERAL FUND. Favorable report of the Committee on  
Appropriations.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Toni Walker.

REP. WALKER (93rd):

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill  
in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you  
remark?

REP. WALKER (93rd):

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO  
Number 8720. I ask -- which will be designated House  
Amendment Schedule "A". I -- Senate Amendment "A" --  
and I ask that I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call --

REP. WALKER (93rd):

8702.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

LCO -- House -- call LCO 8702, which will be designated Senate "A" -- previously designated Senate "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO 8702, Senate "A", offered by Senator Harp and Representative Walker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Any objection to summarization? Representative, you may proceed.

REP. WALKER (93rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill -- this amendment makes several technical changes and substantive changes to nursing homes and Department -- of Consumer Protection, but most importantly it reopens up the Willington rest area. I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on adoption. Remark further? Remark further? If not, let me try your minds, all those in favor of the amendment please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it. The resolution  
is adopted. Amendment is adopted. Representative  
Walker.

REP. WALKER (93rd):

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Clerk to call LCO 8717 and  
I -- be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Clerk, please call LCO 8717 which is previously  
designated Senate "B".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 8717, Senate "B", offered by Senators  
Fonfara and Roraback.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Is there objection to summarization? Hearing  
none, Representative Walker, you may proceed.

REP. WALKER (93rd):

Mr. Speaker, this is -- this Senate Bill -- I  
mean, yes, Senate Bill -- fixes technical changes and  
-- in items that were left out of the original bill  
and I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on adoption. Remark further? If  
not, let me try your minds, all those in favor of the  
amendment please signify by saying Aye.

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REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Remark further on the bill as amended?

Remark further on the bill as amended? 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 is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 1127, as amended by Senate Schedules "A" and "B" in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number voting 147

Necessary for passage 74

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	6
Those absent and not voting	4

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill is passed in concurrence with the  
Senate.

(Representative Aresimowicz of the 30th District  
in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Representative Olson of the 46th, you have the  
floor, madam.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for  
the suspension of our rules for the immediate  
consideration of Calendar Number 639, Senate Bill  
1162. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Is there objection to suspension? Hearing none,  
so ordered. Will the Clerk please call Calendar  
Number 639.

THE CLERK:

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

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PART 22  
6915-7208**

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SENATE

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Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

Madam President.

Calling from Calendar page 8, Calendar 462,

Senate Bill Number 1127, AN ACT CONCERNING

EXPENDITURES OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS OTHER THAN THE  
GENERAL FUND, favorable report of the Appropriations  
Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Good evening, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the bill and passage.

THE CHAIR:

Question is on approval of the bill.

Will you remark further?

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

There is an amendment, it is LCO 8702.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call 8072?

THE CLERK:

Madam President.

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 8702,

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which shall be designated Schedule "A," copies of  
which have been distributed, offered by Senator Harp  
and Representative Walker.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

I move the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption.

Will you remark?

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you, Madam President.

This amendment allows nursing home residents  
whose facility has been closed to bypass the waiting  
list of the facility that such resident is transferred  
to.

It also maintains and assures current outpatient  
mental health therapy fees for outpatient hospital  
services to that population.

It makes technical and conforming changes related  
to the consolidation of the division of special  
revenue into the Department of Consumer Protection.

And the amendment provides for electronic service

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of process for income withholding orders, child support orders on employers and, as well, it establishes a pilot program in three judicial district locations: Hartford, New Haven, and another area selected by the Chief Court Administrator for child support obligors and, as well, it restores requirement that the Department of Economic and Community Development's division on culture and tourism maintain the Willington rest area. I urge support.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

This is the time in our session when, of necessity, amendments come before the body that have not -- that there's not always been a complete opportunity to review in their entirety. So just a couple questions through you, if I may, to Senator Harp to get a better understanding of the details of this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

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SENATOR RORABACK:

The first part of the amendment, Madam President, I understand that nursing homes have waiting lists and we would want them to honor the integrity of the waiting lists, but we can also understand that when a nursing home closes, we need to transfer residents to other nursing homes and one can understand that in that case you might want nursing homes to disregard their waiting lists because you don't want people to have no place to go. So this bill seems to say nursing homes don't have to honor their waiting lists when they are transferring somebody in from a nursing home that's closing. I get that. Then there's some language that's less easy to understand which says, "Or in the case of a nursing home placed in receivership" -- that would be a nursing home is going under or they're not making it -- "the anticipated closure of the nursing home where such applicant previously resided" and then some more language. I just didn't know if Senator Harp could put in plain English what that is all about.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you, through you Madam President.

As I understand it, it so follows that an applicant can transfer from where they are currently in a nursing home if it is closing. That's the first thing. So if it's closing you can transfer. You can also transfer if you are placed in a nursing home that was not of your choosing because your nursing home closed, or you can also, as long as you've applied, be placed in a nursing home of your choosing if it's, your current nursing home is in receivership and you anticipate closure. As long as the transfer occurs not later than 60 days from when the applicant was transferred and, as well, as long as the applicant had already submitted an application to the nursing home they want to go to at the time of the applicant's transfer.

So I would take it to mean that you've applied for a spot in a certain nursing home, it wasn't there, you were sent to another nursing home that was not of your choosing, maybe it was outside of the area in which you live, within 60 days a bed becomes available and the place that you applied for in the first place, you can then be transferred without, you can bypass the waiting list and be transferred as long as it's

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within that 60 days.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

And I appreciate that explanation. It kind of sounds like if your first choice wasn't available at the time they closed your nursing home, and you're sent somewhere where you really didn't want to go, and then a place does become available in your preferred spot, you can jump the list. That, to me, seems like a very sensible and sensitive change to our law.

Through you Madam President, does Senator Harp know did that proposed change come from DSS or the nursing home industry or from a legislator?

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

It was brought to our attention by Senator Prague, who was called by the nursing home ombudsman who recognized there was a problem with the legislation that we had recently passed and that it

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didn't make this exception available.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Well, thank you, Madam President.

I have a high degree of confidence that if a suggestion came to Senator Prague from the nursing home ombudsman, it's the right thing to do. And so I thank Senator Harp for those answers.

Section 2 of the bill, I'm not going to ask many questions about because I don't know a whole lot about POST and I'll leave that to others to inquire. And that's a long section, so I'm just scrolling down to Section 3 to see, and again, Madam President, this is -- okay.

Section 3 I don't have any questions about.

Section 4 I know about because that's actually a provision that I worked on, Madam President, I thank Senator Harp for accommodating the agricultural community and making their property tax filings a little bit easier. And that concludes my questions, and I thank the Chamber for its indulgence. I thank Senator Harp for answers.

Thank you, Madam President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you  
remark further?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you Madam President.

I just have a few questions to the proponent of  
the bill. And I promise, just a few.

Through you --

THE CHAIR:

Prepare yourself, Senator.

SENATOR KANE:

Through you to Senator Harp, Madam President.

I remember this bill in the Appropriations  
Committee, yet this is a strike all. Are we not going  
to study expenditures as the underlying bill assumed,  
through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

We will study expenditures but not officially  
through the ongoing work of the Appropriations  
Committee, through you, Madam President.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Through you to Senator Harp.

Couldn't that, the underlying bill, the actual study of appropriations of funds, other than the General Fund, still be within this amendment, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I believed at the time that it wasn't necessary and that we had other mechanisms to actually do that study so that's why I thought it was appropriate to do a strike all, through you Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

It's probably not necessary to study because we just keep spending anyway. We know we don't need a study to tell us that probably. I would tend to agree with that. My question is in regard to Section 15, is

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this a new expenditure, through you Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

This expenditure was in the bill that we passed last night. It was in the budget adjustment that we did and is contained in that bill, through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

And is this in the budget, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Madam President.

Yes, it is in the budget. It was in the budget adjustment that we passed yesterday.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

And in the judicial budget, this is Non-PS'ed, correct, through you?

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

I believe that it is Non-PS and will probably be  
Other Expenses, through you Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

And, through you to Senator Harp, is it included  
in the lapses that were in the underlying budget or is  
it separate form those lapses that were in there,  
through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, no this is an  
actually appropriation --

SENATOR KANE:

Okay.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And in regards to the program, I believe it's three judicial districts: Hartford, New Haven, and another judicial district selected by the Chief Court Administrator. Is that the norm? Does the Chief Court Administrator choose, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Madam President.

Actually the Chief Court Administrator, actually requests that the Judicial Branch does all of the choosing. There is an existing program in New Haven called the Problem Solving Court that will address child support obligors and this bill will give them some resources to actually help get these folks into job training and help them get jobs so that they can pay their child support. The recommendation, because this bill originally came from Senator Coleman, and so it's really important based upon some observations that he had in the Hartford court, he felt that it was really important that we expand this program to

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Hartford, and so --

SENATOR KANE:

Okay.

SENATOR HARP:

And so there was legislative need in both New Haven and Hartford and, hopefully, there'll be enough resources for the Chief Court Administrator to expand the program to another court. It's been very, very, very successful in the New Haven GA.

(Senator Duff of the 25th is in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Moving on to Section 16, why the West Willington rest area, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President.

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There was evidently, from truckers who utilized the West Willington rest stop, some concern that there would not be a close rest stop for them, and we also heard from the new director of the Division on Culture and Tourism, I guess he's the deputy director of the Department of Economic and Community Development, that the administration is going to be embarking upon a new plan to improve these rest areas and to find ways to get the public involved in these rest areas, and he, too, believed that, through the resources of that department, the Department of Economic and Community Development, that there were ways that it could be kept open on behalf of the tourists who travel through our state.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam -- Mr. President. I apologize.

The -- is this expenditure in the budget, through you?

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

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SENATOR HARP:

This expenditure isn't precisely in the budget, but there is a \$15 million amount in the Department of Economic and Community Development that is supposed to be used for tourism and related initiatives in our state so the dollars are not in the Department of Transportation's budget and it would be my understanding that the resources to keep this facility open would be accomplished through the funding that is available for tourism in the Department of Economic and Community Development.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

The 15 million you refer to in DECD is for tourism marketing, correct, through you?

SENATOR HARP:

It is --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President.

It is for tourism marketing and related areas.

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My understanding is that the rest stops are really seen as vital and important to tourists who travel through our state.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

But not necessarily a tourist attraction, through you to Senator Harp?

SENATOR HARP

But --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President, reading the article that I saw in the paper today might become one soon, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator Harp for her answers. I guess my concern is we took a bill that was to study expenditures and we actually ended up spending more money so I'll be voting in opposition.

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Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further? Will you remark  
further?

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I have a question or two for the proponent  
please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Yes. I want to focus just on that Section 16 and  
the money that is going to be incurred with respect to  
maintaining the West Willington rest area, which was  
scheduled to be shut down as a cost-saving measure.  
So my question is, I guess I understood what you had  
just said, through you, Mr. President, to the  
proponent, that the savings that would have been  
realized from closing that rest area down will no  
longer be available and, therefore, they would be paid  
for -- or the savings opportunity that would be lost  
would be paid for through the Department of Tourism

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budget, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much.

The Department of Economic and Community Development has responsibility for these rest areas and while the staff to oversee the restroom facilities was provided by the Department of Transportation, an alternative program will be used through the Department of Economic and Community Development. And the current director of -- what is it -- tourism, took great objection to our closing the facilities and indicated that there were resources within his department to actually keep it open. Thought it was very important and vital to tourism in our state and for that reason we are providing legislation to keep it open.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. President, now in the fiscal note, it identifies funding of \$458,023 which

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apparently is the amount of saving that was anticipated to be realized from the closing of the rest facility, which now apparently will no longer be available.

Please confirm that, through you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Currently, the rest areas are serviced by the Department of Transportation, and I'm assuming that through a memorandum of understanding through the Department of Economic and Community Development that if they choose to continue this relationship with the Department, they can do that. There are resources in that budget of about 415 million for tourism and marketing-related activities. And given the importance of this, based upon what we learned this morning, it's my understanding that resources of the Department will be made available to keep it open.

Now, they can do that or they can engage a port-a-potty type situation through a contract, but what they've made clear to us is they believe this is

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an important service that we should provide to people who travel through our state.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. President, my recollection is, from sitting on the Appropriations subcommittee, which dealt with this and you were there, too, Senator Harp, was that most of this expense associated with the rest facilities were personnel expenses. They were people who were, the facilities weren't necessarily manned but you had to maintain and you also had to -- security issues.

Could you elaborate on, you know, the nature of how those costs will be handled in light of the change in responsibility, through you, Mr. President?

SENATOR HARP

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President.

I can't specifically say how they'll be handled

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but it's my understanding that the resources of the Department of Economic and Community Development will be utilized to fulfill those responsibilities.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you. And, again, through you, Mr. President, and also somewhere in the back of my head, in the memory there, is a recollection that a factor in the decision to close these facilities was not only the cost to continue to operate them but there was a maintenance cost and there was a certain amount of disrepair at least at some of the facilities. And so, through you, Mr. President, number one, is the cost addressing the state of repairs of the facility in West Willington included in that 458,000 or is it excluded, and then, if it's excluded then how would that be handled, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President.

The dollars to improve the facility are actually

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in the bond fund and they are part of a bonding allocation. My understanding is they'll take around \$2 million to do an upgrade to that facility. At one point in time they were in the bond budget. I don't know whether or not they've been brought to the bond commission, but given the advocacy for this facility, I have no doubt that they will be and that the facility will be improved, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. President, also I recollect I believe it was this facility that has a particularly acute problem with respect to the disposal of wastewater, the sewers. I'm trying to be polite. Through you, Mr. President, could you elaborate on that? Is that part of --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR SUZIO:

The \$2 million cost for improvements?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

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SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President.

The gentleman's absolutely correct. It's a problem that not just impacts the area but surrounding neighborhoods and is why it probably needs to be remediated as soon as possible.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Okay. And through you, Mr. President, I just want to make sure I understand why this facility was selected to be, or targeted to be, instead of closed down, like we had talked about only in the last few weeks, it's going to be maintained. Didn't the Department, itself, have other alternatives that it could go to, thereby, allowing us to take advantage of the cost saving opportunity that the Appropriations Committee had recognized, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President.

My understanding is that there was a lot of

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concern among truckers that the Department, in implementing this had indicated they were going to close off the entire area, which was not our intention ever. It was our intention that truckers would still be able to park there, would be able to sleep there, we just wanted to close down the building which was in disrepair. And so because of that misunderstanding, there was a lot of advocacy on behalf of truckers and vacationers in our state to keep it open and the Department of Economic and Community Development rose to the occasion and said that they would find a way to keep it open and to make it safe for the people who utilize those facilities.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio.

SENATOR SUZIO:

Thank you.

That concludes my questions, Mr. President. I thank good Senator for her detailed response.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thanks, Senator.

Will you remark further?

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Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Good evening, Mr. President.

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

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Harp, the amendment before us, as I understand line 482, line 482, refers to a number of locations in the State of Connecticut, and I see West Willington is added as one of the centers. Can you clarify. Is the other centers that were previously part of this bill slated for continued operation? Through you, Mr. President?

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Yes, the others: the Danbury, the Darien, the North Stonington, and now if this is passed, the West Willington rest stops will all remain open.

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Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Harp.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further on the bill, on the amendment? Will your remark further on the amendment?

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And lest my questions confuse Senator Harp or anyone else in the Chamber the truth be told, an amendment has just been prepared and signed, which

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will be filed in a matter of moments and so I rise to make sure that the bill doesn't leave our grasp before we have a chance to act on the amendment. But in the interest of using the time productively, Mr. President, through you to Senator Harp.

Senator Harp, the bill as I understand it will reverse a decision which was previously made to cease operations at some of the rest facilities in the State of Connecticut. Through you, Mr. President to Senator Harp, is that correct?

SENATOR HARP:

Thank --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Through you, Mr. President it will reverse the decision to close the West Willington rest area.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

My understanding is that that was the first in a series of proposed closures, not all of which would

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happen simultaneously but rather they would happen in a progression.

Through you, Mr. President --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Harp.

SENATOR RORABACK;

-- to Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Through you, the other rest areas would also be closed, and there was hope that there would be a planning process that would ensue so that we could figure out within the bounds of both our state policy and federal law what we might do to have a system that can maintain these facilities. We learned that in other states, Pennsylvania, in particular, that not-for-profit organizations actually adopted these facilities and did some very interesting things with them so there were a number of people on the Transportation Subcommittee of Appropriations that are very interested in working with the Department of Transportation and now the Department of Economic and Community Development to see if there might be ways that we can engage the non-for-profit private sector

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in working with us to maintain these very beautiful, oftentimes, and scenic sites in our state.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And thanks, Senator Harp, I totally agree. It is the right thing for us to do, to be looking at creative ways to, where we can shift costs, but, Mr. President, I would like to yield to Senator Fonfara. If he would accept the yield, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara, do you accept the yield?

SENATOR FONFARA:

I do, Mr. President. Thank you.

Mr. President, the Clerk is in possession of an Amendment LCO 8717. May he please call, and I be permitted to summarize?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO 8717, should be designated Senate Amendment

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Schedule "B." It's offered by Senator Fonfara of the  
1st District, et al.

SENATOR FONFARA:

Mr. President

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA:

I move adoption, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Question's on adoption.

Will you remark?

SENATOR FONFARA:

Yes, sir, Mr. President.

This amendment, in the budget there was a tax on  
generators -- electric generators in Connecticut and  
several alternate generators, such as fuel cells and  
others were -- not fuel cells, but other types of  
generators were exempted, but those that are  
considered customer-side distributed resources were  
inadvertently omitted from that list and this would  
include them. I urge passage of the amendment.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thanks, Senator.

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Will you remark further? Will you remark  
further?

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And I certainly consider this friendly and  
support the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

A question to the proponent of the amendment,  
please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, madam.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Senator Fonfara, you gave a very cursory  
explanation of what this is. Could you be a little  
more explicit? Some generator that wasn't included  
that was included that may be included. I'd love a  
clearer answer please, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

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SENATOR FONFARA:

I would say all of the above. Just kidding.

Mr. President, this would specifically target distributor generation resources, such as those at Kimberly-Clark. I spoke about when we did the energy bill. There's one at Pratt & Whitney. There are several around the state that we have supported, as a state, to allow them to get off the grid partially or entirely. Those resources were inadvertently not included in those that were exempt from the generation tax through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Fonfara, for your explanation.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment?

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

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Opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

The amendment's adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Senator Harp.

SENATOR HARP:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I urge adoption of the bill and if there could be a roll call on the bill, I'd really appreciate it.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, Mr. Clerk, please announce the pendency of a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

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Have all members voted? If all members voted, please make -- check the board to make sure your vote is accurately recorded.

If all members voted, Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

The motion is on passage of Senate Bill 1127, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedules "A" and "B."

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yeah	29
Those voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes as amended.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

That completes those items previously marked go.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if we might stand at ease for a --  
for just a moment?

THE CHAIR:

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The Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yeah. Thank you.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal of Senate Bill 1127, as amended, to the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

If we might stand at ease for another -- oh -- oh, first, Mr. President, I believe the Clerk is now in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2, for today's session.

THE CHAIR: