

PA 11-034

HB5184

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
PART 7
2055 – 2400**

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 180.

THE CLERK:

On page 38, Calendar 180, House Bill Number 5184,
AN ACT PERMITTING COUPON BOOKS USE AS AN INCENTIVE FOR
PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS, favorable report by the
Committee on Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Ed Jutila, you have the floor,
sir.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
Representative Jutila, you have the floor.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This bill allows qualified organizations
conducting a raffle to promote the raffle by offering
coupons to perspective ticket buyers. The coupons
could be redeemed for merchandise or services or
discount on those items.

So, for example, a local restaurant might offer a discount coupon for 10 percent off the price of a meal, a local landscaper might offer a discount to cut your lawn, and this would provide an incentive to those who might be interested in purchasing the raffle ticket.

And, Madam Speaker, the Clerk has in his possession an Amendment LCO 5960. I would request that the Clerk call the amendment and that I be permitted to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 5960, designated as House Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 5960, House "A," offered by Representative Sayers, Aresimowicz, Olson and Dargan.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Is there objection?

Hearing none, seeing none, Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The amendment does two things. It provides a statutory definition for "coupon," and it would also

would allow that -- that the raffle tickets would be permitted to be sent by mail by the sponsoring organization.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would move passage of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is on passage.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment?

Representative Jan Giegler of the 93rd, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. GIEGLER (93rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just a question, through you, to the Vice Chair of Public Safety.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. GIEGLER (93rd):

Thank you very much.

In this amendment that's before us now, you mentioned that now it allows for coupons to be sent through the mail. And I know that was an issue that we had discussed on how the federal government -- and

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the US Post Office would deal with it. How is this being done?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Through you, to the ranking member of the Public Safety Committee. The tickets would be put in the mail to the perspective purchaser of the raffle ticket and there would have to be a -- a notice included that would include the words "no purchase necessary to enter the raffle," and this is a result of a federal law requirement that would only permit the raffle tickets to go by mail under those circumstances.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you -- Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (93rd):

Thank you very much for your answers. The bill that -- that is before us, actually the amendment, makes -- makes it a better bill, and since we're speaking only on the amendment, I will support the amendment as written.

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Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, ma'am.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care --

Representative Sawyer of the 55th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Good afternoon.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

A question, through you, to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Representative Jutila, in this particular amendment, I don't see any language for this, but if you could help me with underlying statute that this relies on. Is there a value to these coupons? Is there a value limit to these coupons, monetary value?

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Through you, to Representative Sawyer. There is no value limit on the coupons.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you very much and because I just received the amendment, my apologies. My computer would not open it, and I had to do it the old fashion way by paper. Can you tell us -- I'm having a little bit of trouble hearing Representative Jutila.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you so much.

Is there an age requirement -- an age restriction for someone to purchase one of these coupons?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There would not be any purchase of the coupons. The -- the coupons would simply be offered as an incentive to a purchaser of the raffle ticket, and there is a -- a detailed statutory scheme which provides the rules for municipalities that adopt an ordinance in order to allow raffles which would include certain age restrictions, for instance, on who can sell the -- the raffle tickets, and I believe who can purchase them as well.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you.

So is the age requirement something that is done through the town's ordinance or through statute?

Through you, Madam Speaker. I apologize. It wasn't clear.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Madam Speaker, through you. The requirement is a state statutory requirement that the towns are required to adopt as part of their ordinance that

approves the -- the existence of raffles by qualified sponsoring organization within the town.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And a follow-up question, for someone who is going to use these coupons in relationship to the raffle tickets, is there an age condition for selling them? In the case where it might be a scout troop or, perhaps, something through an educational association that might have young people assisting them or doing volunteer work or whatever and they offer to go out and offer these raffle tickets. Is there an age requirement, age limit? Does the 18-year-old limit fall under the selling of the raffle tickets with the coupons?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes, there is an age restriction on the selling of the tickets. And I believe the restriction is under 16. In other words,

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you have to be at least 16 in order to be able to sell the tickets.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you. I appreciate his answer. Is there an expectation or did you hear, perhaps, in the public hearings regarding this particular bill, is there a size of the -- are the coupons restricted in any way to size or amount? Such as, could it be -- a coupon -- can they go with a free ice cream if you buy the raffle ticket, or does it have to be a percentage off of something?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker. No, there -- there is no specificity to that level. It could be a percentage off an item. It could be a \$1 off, for instance, the price of an ice cream at Dairy Queen.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you. My last question, could it be a free item? Could it be someone that -- an -- an material item that someone gets actually for no cost, such as a free ice cream or a free mini flashlight or something like that?

Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker. Yes, it could be either a free item or a discount on a particular item.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

I -- I thank the gentleman for his answer. And one of the reasons I ask these types of questions is when these raffles come up and we go to some of the events where they are being sold or whatever, oftentimes we are asked sort of quietly on the side, did we do this right? Did we -- are we going to get in trouble because we didn't such -- do such and such? So it's a -- I think important for us as legislatures because we often go to be supportive of the community activities and to be able to give them the correct

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answers, and I thank the gentleman for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us?

Representative Betts, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just a question to the proponent if I might. Where did he go?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you.

With regards to the coupons -- or not the regards of the coupon -- in regards to the people who win the raffle prize, is there any deadline by which they're required to use those because I remember in past years someone would say, for example, you won, let's say, bowling for 12, must be used by December 31st. And I remember participating in some of these things, and it was very confusing and I'm wondering if that's already been clarified in previous legislation or if it's clarified here?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Madam Speaker. There is nothing in this bill or in the amendment to the bill that would specify any expiration date or prohibition on an expiration date. However, because we are talking about a discount coupon, it would be my belief that any laws and regulations that apply to coupons, generally, under Connecticut law would also be applicable in this instance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

I thank you --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I thank you for your answer, and I will support this. This makes a great deal of sense. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? On the amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

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

Representative Baram of the 15th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As the initial proponent of this bill, I would like to urge my colleagues to support it. This bill will go a long way in helping nonprofits and charitable organizations promote raffles which is usually their main fundraising event by offering these discount coupons which usually consist of things, like restaurant coupons, that are offered at a 10 or 15 percent discount as an incentive for people to

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purchase a raffle ticket. So I think that this will promote these raffles and allow our nonprofits and charities to engage in fundraising which always comes back to the community to help with an array of social services, and I would urge its support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you.

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

Representative Davis of the 137th.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's Representative Davis of the 57th District, not of the 130 --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

I'm so sorry, sir.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

No problem. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila -- oh, excuse me.

Please frame your question, sir. Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A question for the proponent of the bill, through you. If the -- if we have narrowly defined the definition of a -- coupon now through this amendment on the bill, I was just wondering if this now would prohibit a organization from offering a website that they can go through to get a discount or perhaps an e-coupon as is often done these days?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The -- the definition of -- simply defines what a -- a coupon is, which is a -- a ticket form or document which the holder may redeem in exchange for merchandise, tangible personal property, services or transportation on a common carrier or discounts on those things.

There is nothing in this bill, except for the provision in the amendment, that allows the tickets to be distributed through the mail. So other than that, the same existing statutory scheme that applies to

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raffles and bazaars currently would apply under this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I thank the gentleman for his answers. I am in support of this bill. I think it's a very positive step to help out nonprofit organizations across our state in order to raise more money, because as we all know in these difficult times, they need all the help they can get to get those funds.

So thank you, Madam Speaker, and I stand in support of the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further?

Representative Giegler.

REP. GIEGLER (93rd):

Thank you Madam Chair.

I, too, rise in support of the bill before us.

Our nonprofits are always in need to find resources to assist them in their programs and their services. They can no longer count on the traditional

forms of raising funds, and this is just one of those that helps -- it's a kind of a creative means in assisting them in being able to sustain. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you.

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

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the Chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? If all the members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast. If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally please.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

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House Bill 5184 as amended by House "A."

Total Number voting 139

Necessary for passage 70

Those voting Yea 139

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent not voting 12

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

The bill passes as amended.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 401.

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 401, Senate Bill Number 889,
AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS'
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL AND MINOR CORRECTIONS TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY STATUTES, favorable report by the
Committee on Public Safety.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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

REP. DARGAN (115th):

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move for the acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill
in concurrence with the Senate.

**JOINT
STANDING
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HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
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**PART 1
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they will have the benefit of written testimony, as submitted, if they're for some moment out of the room.

We will go back to Representative Baram since he joined us. Well, good morning, sir.

REP. BARAM: Good morning.

SENATOR HARTLEY: And you're going to talk to us on 5184.

REP. BARAM: Thank you very much and good morning, Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, members of the Public Safety Committee. I'm State Representative David Baram and I am here to speak on your committee bill, 5184, which is actually the drafted version of my proposed House Bill 5184. And as you know, this bill intends to amend Connecticut General Statute Section 7-172, which is oftentimes known as the bizarre/raffle act, to allow a sponsoring organization to promote a raffle by offering discount coupons to any person who purchases a raffle ticket.

If you've read the state statute, you know that sponsoring organizations are defined as groups like volunteer fire departments, religious associations, civic and charitable groups, nonprofits in the like, and many of these groups rely on raffles as a way of raising monies to allow them to perform the community and civic services that they oftentimes provide. If any of you have ever purchased a raffle ticket, sometimes they're expensive and you know that very few people actually win the big prize. So as an incentive to give something back to a person who is paying for a raffle ticket, community groups have in the past offered these discount

coupons. Many of them being restaurant coupons saying you'll get 10 percent, 15 percent off if you come to our restaurant and buy a dinner. And that way, if you're purchasing raffle ticket, even if you don't win the big prize, you feel as though you're getting something for the value of the ticket that you're paying for.

Unfortunately, the Division of Special Revenue interpreted the existing statutes as determining that offering discounts coupons was a violation of the statute and, therefore, it has obstructed the fundraising abilities of many of these sponsoring organizations. And as I indicated -- and I'm sure every single one of you belongs to some kind of a nonprofit or civic group, as I do -- that relies on these fundraisers to be able to get out into the community and sponsor these programs. So organizations have been frustrated and someone obstructed from their ability to engage in meaningful fundraising efforts. This bill would allow offering discount coupons in conjunction with the purchase of a raffle ticket and reinstate what many organizations were doing before they were told by the revenue department that this was a violation of state statute.

Interestingly, in one such group that I know well, the Division of Revenue Services indicated that even though, in the downsizing of that department and reallocation of resources, they were not going to inspect permittee events, they still reminded the groups that to offer discount coupons would be a violation of the law and no group is going to risk violating the law even though the Department of Revenue Services is saying we're probably not going to inspect your event.

It's sort of a -- a mixed message.

So by clarifying the statute and amending it, I think all our sponsoring organizations would be able, with a sense of confidence, to engage in this kind of fundraising activity and feel as though they were complying with the law, and still performing a community service by raising these funds and then going out into the community and offering the programs and services that we all know they have come to exemplify and represent. And that is basically the gist of the bill and I -- I do thank all of you for giving this an opportunity to have a public hearing and I know that there are others in the public who will speak to this later on.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Well, thank you, Representative Baram. My first question is are any of these good?

Are there questions from committee members?

Yes, Representative Adinolfi.

REP. ADINOLFI: I like this. I'm involved in a lot of nonprofit organizations and do a lot of fundraising and I can't understand why it was ever against the law. You get these coupons clippers in the mail all the time. You pick them out and use them. It's that same type of coupon. So to give these coupons away free at a fundraising event or where you have raffles, I see nothing wrong with it. I like it and I think it would be helpful to a lot of the nonprofits in raising money. So I thank you for putting this bill forward and I intend to support it. Thank you.

REP. BARAM: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Hello. Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA: Thank you, Representative Baram, for bringing this before us and for your testimony. I'm wondering, have you spoken with Special Revenue about this, and if so, do you know if they have a position in -- what I'm trying to get at is are they simply doing their jobs by reading the statute and interpreting it and enforcing it or do they have a -- a problem in terms of the substantive issue of providing the coupons along with the raffle tickets?

REP. BARAM: I have not spoken to them personally. Although, I did send a copy of my testimony the other day to Commissioner Kevin Sullivan in the hope that he would be able to see what this bill was about and my expressive point of view later on in the session. I have seen, however, with regards to one of our nonprofit and charitable groups significant correspondence between that group, which is the Mandell Jewish Community Center in West Hartford, and the Division of Special Revenue and my recollection of those correspondence is is that the Division was interpreting the statute, as currently written, to prohibit this kind of -- discount coupons from being offered.

I don't -- I don't think that they necessarily thought it was a bad idea. They were just doing their duty to interpret the law even though this particular nonprofit and charity disagreed with that interpretation and actually went through an appeal process to have it reviewed. Unfortunately, the decision was that the law prohibited discount coupons. I don't see any -- any harm whatsoever to

anybody, the state or -- or the public. I just see that this would be a benefit because it allows these nonprofits and charities to continue to raise funds and they perform so many services and good deeds that government can't possibly get involved in and I think we all have this expectation in the future that as we have to balance our budget and reduce our services that we're hoping that the nonprofits can pick up some of the ground that we're losing and, in fact, I assume that's why our -- our governor appointed somebody to act as a new commissioner of nonprofits to be able to coalesce these nonprofits together to do more community services as the government retreats during this recession.

So I -- I think that only good things can come from this.

REP. JUTILA: I would tend to agree with you based on what I'm hearing. Hopefully, Special Revenue will come forward and give us their opinion directly so we can see if there's another side to this that maybe we're not seeing. Thank you.

REP. BARAM: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you, Representative Jutila.

Are there further questions from committee members?

If not, thank you very much for bringing this forward.

REP. BARAM: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

SENATOR HARTLEY: We would like to invite the police chiefs. Chief Strillacci and

DAVID JACOBS: Thank you, Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is David Jacobs. I'm the executive director of the Mandell Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center in West Hartford.

And Senator, I apologize for mistaking you for one the (inaudible) by earlier.

SENATOR HARTLEY: (Inaudible.)

DAVID JACOBS: All right. I'm here to testify in support of House Bill 5184, AN ACT PERMITTING COUPON BOOKS TO BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE FOR PURCHASING RAFFLES TICKETS. The following organizations can't be here today but asked me to report that they're in full support and they are Alliance of Connecticut YMCAs, the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and the Great Danbury Chamber of Commerce.

SB35

Nonprofit organizations are an ongoing -- in an ongoing quest to develop annual and reliable sources of revenue to enable us to maintain levels of programs and services we offer to the community. The traditional forms of revenue, like the United Way from whom we receive report, donors, fees and dues are often not enough to balance a budget. So fundraising in its many forms has become a commonplace in the nonprofit world as a part of business. Our daily e-mail is filled with all kinds of new ideas for doing fundraisers. from galas and auctions, to car washes and cookie sales and organizations of every size are engaged in trying to generate additional revenue.

Now, raffles are among the most important fundraisers that are undertaken in the

nonprofit world and have become one of ours -- at the JCC, one of our most successful. Prizes are solicited from and donated by local businesses, and tickets are sold by volunteer committee members. DRS's Administrative Regulations for the Operation of Bazaars and Raffles govern the raffle event and we adhere to those rules.

As Representative Baram spoke earlier, in 2007, after two years or providing these restaurant coupons -- of which you have copies in front of you -- we were cited by DRS because of the rule stated in Section 7-185-12b(i) and it is this section that Representative Baram's bill is seeking to amend. This section provides that no organization shall, in the conduct in a raffle, give a service or thing of value without charge to persons participating in the raffle. This bill asks that the regulations be amended to allow for a coupon bonus to anyone who purchase a raffle ticket.

In the case of the JCC, we have had restaurant owners willing to give us these coupons to distribute along with the raffle tickets that are purchased and that enables the buyers to get a percentage off when they go out to eat. Other nonprofits might offer a coupon that provides for a discount at the giftshop or for a free guest pass to their organization like YCMA or Children's Museum. Now, these coupons are just one more tool that help volunteers in the challenging and often thankless world of fundraising. People are approached all the time to donate to different causes. By being able to offer coupons like these, people are more encouraged to buy one or two tickets.

When raffles are successful and meet their

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financial goals, we -- nonprofits benefit as do the people we serve. We are able to fund deficit programs and sometimes able to add new ones. And the more a nonprofit can do to support their community and constituency, the better they are able to do in achieving their mission. This bill helps us do that.

There's a companion bill, Number 35, AN ACT REPEALING RESTRICTIONS ON ADVERTISEMENT OF A BAZAAR OR RAFFLE, which allows for the use of mailed brochures and electronic media to promote the raffles. We also support this bill because it provides us yet with another way to make our fundraiser known to our members and others and hopefully increase the money we raise.

So thank you very much for this opportunity and I'm happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you very much, David.

Are there questions from members of the committee?

So now I know who gave us that flysheet and teasing us with Bricco and Max and so forth.

DAVID JACOBS: There you go. But those are just copies. They are not valid. They will not be able to be used.

SENATOR HARTLEY: I get it.

DAVID JACOBS: But if you pass the bill, we'll back and we'll sell all of you raffle tickets next year.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Okay.

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DAVID JACOBS: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you.

If there are no further questions, we'd invited Melvin Simon if he's --

A VOICE: (Inaudible.)

SENATOR HARTLEY: Yeah, it's the same bill. Okay. Thank you very much.

Eric Brown. Is he still with us?

Hi, Eric.

ERIC R. BROWN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the committee. My name is Eric Brown. I'm an attorney and lobbyist for AFSCME Council 15. We represent, as many of you know, 60 municipal local unions -- police unions in the state and over 4,000 officers. And I'm here to testify in opposition to House Bill 5056, which is the educational requirement bill that you've a lot about today.

One of our first concerns is that the bill, as it's currently written, would require police officers, who have been employed for more than five years, to have the required associate's degree and the presumption being, as the bill is written now, if they did not have the associate's degree and had been an employee of a police department for more than five years they would be subject to immediate termination. So with respect to the way it's written, there's a glitch that I think needs to be resolved.

My understanding, from hearing Representative Serra testify, was that the idea is require

Testimony in Favor of Proposed Bill 5184

Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is David Jacobs, Executive Director of the Mandell Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center in West Hartford. I am joined by Melvin Simon, past President and current Board member of the Mandell JCC. SB35

I am here to testify in support of House Bill No. 5184: AN ACT PERMITTING COUPON BOOKS TO BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE FOR PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS.

The following organizations cannot be here to testify but have asked me to report they are all in full support of HB 5184: The alliance of Connecticut . YMCA's, The Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce.

Non-profit organizations are in an ongoing quest to develop annual and reliable sources of revenue to enable them to maintain levels of programs and services offered to the community. Traditional forms of revenue from the United Way (from whom we receive support), donors, fees and dues are often not enough to balance a budget. Fund raising, in its many forms, has become commonplace in the non-profit world. Our daily email is filled with new ideas and concepts for doing fundraisers – from galas and auctions, to car washes and cookie sales - organizations of every size are engaged in trying to generate additional revenue.

Raffles are among the most common of fundraisers that are undertaken in the non-profit world, and it has been one of the JCC's most successful. Prizes are solicited from and donated by local businesses, and tickets are sold by volunteer committee members. DRS's *Administrative Regulations for the Operation of Bazaars and Raffles* govern the raffle event and we adhere to those rules.

In 2007, after two years of providing restaurant coupons with our raffle tickets, we were cited by DRS because of the rule stated in Sec. 7-185-12b.(i) and it is that section this bill is seeking to amend. The section provides that "No organization shall...in the conduct of a ...raffle, give a service or thing of value without charge...to persons participating in the raffle...." This bill asks that the regulations be amended to allow for a coupon bonus to anyone who purchases a raffle ticket.

In the case of the JCC, we have had restaurant owners willing to give us coupons to distribute along with the raffle ticket purchase, enabling buyers to get a percentage off dining in their establishments. I have included a sample of the coupon program we utilized that year. Other non-profit organizations might offer a coupon that provides for a discount in their gift shop or a free guest pass to their organization, e.g. the YMCA, the Children's Museum, etc.

These coupons are just one more tool that might help volunteers in the challenging and often thankless job of fund raising. People are approached all the time to donate to different causes. By being able to offer coupons like these, people are more encouraged to buy one or two tickets. (over....)

When raffles are successful and meet their financial goals, the non-profits benefit, as do the people they serve. We are able to help fund deficit programs and sometimes able to add new ones. The more a non-profit can do to support their community and constituency, the better they are able to do in achieving their missions. This bill helps us do that.

A companion House Bill No. 35, ***AN ACT REPEALING RESTRICTIONS ON ADVERTISEMENT OF A BAZAAR OR RAFFLE***, allows for the use of mailed brochures and electronic media to promote these raffles. We also support this bill because it provides yet another way to make our fundraiser known to our members and others and hopefully increase the money raised.

Thank you for the opportunity to have testified, and I am happy to answer any questions.

No. XXXX



NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE _____



\$25,000 gift certificate redeemable at The Hoffman Art & Motivative Group
 if the value of the gift certificate exceeds the value of the prize, the
 a gift certificate for the difference.

SECOND PRIZE
 \$5,000 gift certificate redeemable at Liberty Travel

THIRD PRIZE
 Black Onyx Cabochon Necklace set in 14K gold and white sapphires on a 25" chain
 By Emily and Ashley Value \$2,825

The Big JCC Raffle is sponsored by the
 Mandell Jewish Community Center
 to benefit the 2007 Scholarship Fund.

Three prizes to be awarded

\$100 per ticket. Prize drawing to be held at the Mandell Jewish Community Center,
 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117, on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 7:30 PM.
 Need not be present to win. Raffle tickets are not tax deductible.
 Taxes are the responsibility of the recipient. Prizes not redeemable for cash.

No. XXXX



Buy One and Get One Free



236 Hartford Tpk. • Vernon, CT
 860.872.4200
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



185 Asylum St. • Hartford, CT
 860.522.2530
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



136 Silmsbury Rd. • Avon, CT
 860.676-2672
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



357 Main St. • Hartford, CT
 860.547-1714
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



Churrascaria Braza
 488 Farmington Ave. • Hartford • 860.882.1839
 Hot Tomato's
 1 Union Place • Hartford, CT • 860.249.5100
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



819 Farmington Ave. • Farmington, CT
 860.674-1224
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



Restaurant Bricco
 78 LaSalle Rd. • West Hartford • 860.233.0220
 Grants
 977 Farmington Ave. • West Hartford, CT • 860.236.1930
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free

OPENING
 THIS WINTER

Sauce

124 Hebron Ave. • Glastonbury, CT
 860.559-3933
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



986 Farmington Ave. • West Hartford, CT
 860.236.6195
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



1245 New Britain Ave. • West Hartford, CT
 860.561.0180
 see reverse side for details



Buy One and Get One Free



93 Asylum St. • Hartford, CT
 860.549.3364
 see reverse side for details

Thank You to
 all of our
 Coupon Sponsors!



**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Saturday evenings except in July & August.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Valid any time.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Valid any time. Entertainment not included.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.

**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Thursday, Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.



**Free lunch or dinner entree
of equal or lesser value**

Maximum value of \$25. Tax and alcohol excluded.
18% gratuity will be added to bill prior to discount.
Valid 1/01/07 - 8/30/07.
Not valid Friday or Saturday evenings.
Coupons cannot be combined with any other offering.
Reservations encouraged.



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STATE CAPITOL
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BARAM
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 E-MAIL: David.Baram@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
 JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
 SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
 BANKS COMMITTEE

February 8, 2011

Dear Chairpersons Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan, and Members of the Public Safety Committee,

I am State Representative David Baram, and I want to thank you for holding today's Public Hearing on Committee Bill No. 5184, which is the drafted version of my Proposed Bill No. 5184. As you know this Bill amends CGS Section 7-172, by allowing a sponsoring organization to promote a raffle by offering coupons to any person who purchases a raffle ticket.

The reason for my Proposed Bill was to allow sponsoring organizations like veteran associations, religious groups, civic and charitable organizations, volunteer fire departments, and like groups, to offer coupon books as part of the incentive to purchase a raffle ticket. Coupon books often consist of restaurant discount coupons that help induce people to buy a raffle ticket that offers a prize to the winner. In this manner, a contributor feels like they are getting an incentive to purchase the raffle ticket, knowing that just a few people actually win the designated prize.

Sponsoring organizations as the ones referenced above, perform an invaluable community service through the volunteer efforts of their members. It is important that the State of Connecticut not hinder or obstruct such fundraising efforts especially in this historic Recession. Without successful fundraising, sponsoring organizations will not have the funds necessary to provide the programming and community services that they have come to exemplify and embrace. Failure to successfully raise funds, only hurts the people who are the beneficiaries of their social and community services.

The citizens of our State need the continued involvement and participation of our volunteer organizations, non-profits and charities, so they can receive the many social services that government cannot provide. When I and other Legislators were contacted by local religious institutions and non-profits, we were told that the Division of Special Revenue deemed the offer of discount coupons to be a violation of the Bazaar and Raffle Act (CGS Sections 7-170- to 7-186). As a result, sponsoring organizations have been restricted in their fundraising, and the success of their raffles has been substantially diminished.

In the case of the Mandell Jewish Community Center in West Hartford, the Division of Special Revenue wrote a letter on August 12, 2010 saying that its resources were being reallocated, so that even though it might not inspect permitted events, the Special Revenue Division still cautions that each permittee comply (ie no discount coupons).

No sponsoring organization wants to violate the existing statutes. By amending Section 7-172, sponsoring organizations can comply with the law and hold successful fundraising events. I thank the Public Safety Committee for allowing this matter to proceed and hope that you will support Bill 5184 so it can be voted into law.

Respectfully,

David Baram
 State Representative

S - 618

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 7
2086- 2336**

rgd/md/gbr
SENATE

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Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, we have two additional items to place on the consent calendar. First is Calendar page 21, Calendar 498, House Bill 5184; and the second is calendar page 27, Calendar 78, Senate Bill 35.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

If we might stand at ease for just a moment.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate is at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate is back in order.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you very much.

Madam President, I believe the Clerk is in possession now of Senate Agenda Number 3, Number 4

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THE CLERK:

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

Madam President, the third consent calendar begins on calendar page 12, Calendar 406, Senate Bill 1207; calendar page 21, Calendar Number 498, House Bill 5184; calendar page 27, Calendar Number 78, Senate Bill -- calendar -- (inaudible) Calendar Number 35 -- correction, page 27, Calendar Number 78, Senate Bill Number 35.

SB1040

And on page 33, Calendar 213, Senate Bill 1040.

Madam President, that completes those items placed on the third consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you please call and announce another roll call. The machines will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the third consent calendar. Will all Senators please

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return to the Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on the third consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Williams, will you vote, please?

Thank you, sir. Thank you.

Okay let's go. Thank you.

All members voted. All members voted. The machines will be locked. Mr. Clerk, will you call that tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is adoption of third consent calendar.

Total Number voting 33

Necessary for adoption 17

Those voting Yea 33

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 3

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar has now been adopted.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

Would yield the floor at this point for members for announcements or points of personal