

PA 11-057

SB1242

House	7860-7894	35
<u>Senate</u>	<u>5246-5267, 5321</u>	<u>23</u>
		<b>58</b>

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified Bill 1242.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 1242, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZING SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE STATE FOR TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZING STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, LCO Number 8307, introduced by Senator Williams and Representative Donovan.

(SB 1242)

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished chairman -- chairwoman of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, Representative Pat Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good afternoon, ma'am.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the emergency certified bill and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage. Will you explain the bill please, madam?

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill combines the general obligation, special tax obligation, and school construction bond bills into one bill. These bills authorize the funding for the state's commitment and investment for infrastructure projects for our schools, roads and bridges, universities, and other eligible entities.

Mr. Speaker, the individual parts of this bill were drafted with countless hours of work by the subcommittee and committee chairs of the respective parts of the bill. I'd like to thank them all for their hard work. I'd also like to thank OFA, especially Linda Miller, LCO, especially Anne Carroll, and OLR, especially Judith Lohman, for their work.

I will now be referring to the chairs to comment further and explain their individual sections, and then answer questions.

Representative Boukus, the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee general obligation subcommittee chair, will comment on the new bond authorizations related to the general obligation bonds.

Representative Ayala, the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee special tax obligations subcommittee chair, will comment on the new bond authorizations.

And Representative Fleischmann, our education chair, will comment on the State's grant commitments for school construction.

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Colleagues, you're a little too noisy. If we can calm down a little or take our conversations outside while we deal with the bonding bill. Thank you very much.

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good afternoon, ma'am.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I'm going to thank a few people and then describe the bond package that we are about to vote on, for my segment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

You don't need my permission, but you certainly have my encouragement. Go ahead, please.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

I always ask your permission, Mr. Speaker.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to thank the

members of the Finance Committee, our subcommittee on Bonding, Mary Finnigan, Linda Miller, from OFA, and the Finance Committee.

I especially want to thank the ranking member, the engaging and insightful Representative Livvy Floren. Without her help, I would not even had a chance. Years of experience, and I thank her.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I've said more than a dozen words to my cochair over the many years I've been here in the Chamber. But I want you to know that we've definitely changed that over the last six months.

Senator Fonfara was, and continues to be, a great person to work with and I look forward to working with him and his legislative aide, Linda Buchanan, in the months to follow, and finally, the report and all of its work with Gary Turco here from the Speaker's office and my aid Adam Chiara.

With that, we have in the bond package statutory areas that we fund. And they include cleaning -- clean water, economic development, local (inaudible) programs that we have in our communities, farmland preservation and many others.

We also do programs or projects that people have that might be involved in development and

rehabilitation of housing projects, supporting housing, and grants to our nonprofits and our municipalities. And it's all here in the bond package. We are also doing something very exciting this year in providing for the technology park at Storrs at UConn. And I just want to explain -- or just separate the two projects that are out there.

Bill 1152 is the act concerning the University of the Connecticut Health Center. That is not what we are voting on here in the Chamber today. What we are voting on -- upon is a bioscience initiative that's taking place at the University of Connecticut. And it's called the Technology Park at Storrs.

There are several parks across our nation, and this is going to be a wonderful one for our flagship for research and for the commercial application. It will create new jobs, generate federal and industry research grants. It goes on and on. It developed technologies and process to increase their competitiveness, building core technological competencies, and support business growth in our state.

They have been working on this with studies that they have done since 2006, or even earlier, also a market feasibility done in 2008. And we had, in our

original bond package that came out of committee, \$18 million for this project. We are now adding in this project that we have, an additional monies for 2013. And it is -- the additional dollars are \$174.5 million.

Each agency came before the subcommittee and presented their requests. Those are in the budget. We are also looking at a new program for municipalities when they work together. If you have two municipalities that are working on a project and they need a piece of equipment, and it's a costly piece of equipment, we're encouraging them to get together and come out for this new program that we are offering. That they can share the expense, share the product, and get 50 percent funding from the State of Connecticut, through the Office of Policy and Management.

There are many other programs in here for your districts, for you to apply, and some of the work that you need with notwithstanding language, that's in here.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to sit down and let the next person start.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, madam.

The distinguished gentleman from Bridgeport,  
Representative Ayala.

REP. AYALA (128th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I like to take the opportunity to summarize the work that we did in the transportation subcommittee, bonding subcommittee, and also to give some special thanks to individuals who worked with us.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please proceed.

REP. AYALA (128th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to thank the Chair of Finance, Representative Widlitz, for really being a leader in helping me get through this process. This was my first year sitting as the chair of the subcommittee, so I want to thank her for leadership on this.

I'd also like to thank my cochair on the subcommittee, Senator LeBeau, for also displaying a tremendous amount of leadership in helping me understand a process and work through it.

In addition, from House Democrats, Gary Turkel, for the same, helping me get through the process and

explaining to me the work that needed to get done.

Also would like to extend some heartfelt thanks to the ranking member, Representative Scribner, who, through the committee process, was there to lead as well, and who helped to ensure that we got unanimous support to pass the package that came out of the subcommittee.

The bond, Senate Bill 1242, authorizes up to \$578.6 million in special tax obligation bonds for fiscal year 2012 and up to \$515.2 million in fiscal year 2013. Commissioner Redeker estimates that with these bond allocations, we will also be able to leverage up to \$1.2 billion in federal funds.

Some of the areas that we will be using these funds, essentially, are what's traditionally done through the transportation subcommittee. And it's pretty much the same projects that come through here year after year. I just want to identify some of the major areas that these dollars are put into.

That's the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations. In addition to that, we have the Bureau of Aviation and Ports. In addition to that, the Bureau of Public Transportation and, finally, the Bureau of Administration.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will turn it over to the next gentleman who will speak on the education piece.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Ayala, thank you very much.

The gentleman from West Hartford, Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this good bill before us includes our annual priority list of school construction projects, along with a series of notwithstandings that have been vetted by the State Department of Education and members of this assembly, that address the types of issues that are nonpartisan and of concern on both side of the aisle.

There were PCBs found while there was work done to renovate a school, and so there were unexpected costs. There were findings of asbestos that were unexpected. And so, in a manner that was meant to respect all four caucuses of the Legislature and good public policy, we took care of those issues. And so the bill that's now before us reflects those efforts to make sure that we have, not only new schools getting

built as they ought to be, but also proper protections and support for school systems that have done the right thing, that have worked on their schools, and that may have run into unexpected challenges.

So I'd like to thank my good ranking member. I like to thank my cochair, Senator Stillman, and folks from the State Department of Education who were incredibly helpful and helped in vetting all these different complicated issues, and helping us develop the good bill before us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. The distinguished Minority Leader, Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a few questions through the proponent of the bill, and whoever the gentlelady chairperson wants to refer him to is fine by me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Very good, sir. Proceed.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding

that the general total amount being bonding is \$1.365.1 billion in fiscal year '13 and 1.202.4 million dollars -- billion dollars in fiscal year 12. Is that correct? Through you, Madam Speaker -- Mr. Speaker. Excuse me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

I believe we will direct that at Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Cafero, that is correct, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the emergency certified bill that -- before us, is slightly different than that which was passed out of the Finance Committee. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is also correct, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my understanding that it's only different in one instance. And I would ask if I'm correct, if the gentlelady could explain the difference between the bill that's before us or the one that passed out of finance. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

There were several others, Representative Cafero. One that comes to mind was that there was a \$5 million in for a Sheff versus O'Neill project, and the additional request for the technology.

What else was there?

We also had a request from the Office of Fiscal Analysis to move some money so they could go out for bonding in June rather than in July. I believe those are all, other than the one you mentioned. Thank you,

sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, the largest portion of those additional amounts above and beyond what was passed out of finance, I believe, has to do with the UConn technology piece. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Yes. You are correct, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, how much is that amount?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

The amount is 174.5 million, I believe, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I guess my

question is, how did that come about? In other words, we had gone through the session. I know how hard -- and I'm about to complement the bipartisan effort in -- in a year that one would think would not have that kind of effort -- the incredible effort by the ranking members, both the House and the Senate and the chairs of both the House and the Senate, to put this bill together. And we find ourselves with a relatively significant piece that's in addition, and I'm curious as to how that came about. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cafero, Representative Cafero, would it help you if I told you it was really 154 million? I had added the 18 million in there when I said 174.5. So 154.5 is the amount that was added in.

After careful review by several people involved in this project, mostly representatives of that area, review of 2008/2009/2007 reports and meetings that took place, it appeared that this was a shovel-ready position -- project for them at this particular time, sir. That's what I basically know. ]

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Chamber, I think the good lady is absolutely right. It probably is a shovel-ready project. And here's my problem.

Bonding is how much we borrow every year. It is -- it is indicative of how much money we spent, how much we borrow. And by the way, you don't borrow money for nothing. You've got to pay the vig, if you will. You've got to pay the debt service.

And unfortunately, as we've heard and read about, we -- we struggle all the time with a debt service that hovers around 11 percent of our budget, 11 percent of a 20 billion-dollar budget. And why the good people of the committee need to be applauded is, for the first time in a long time, this bonding bill that's before us has no earmarks. It has public safety projects. It has school construction projects. It has projects that are for the health, education and welfare of the citizenry.

And by the way, I would put this UConn project for \$154 million in that category. It will create jobs,

et cetera. But one of the concerns I have that I've shared with members of the General Assembly, and frankly, the Governor himself, because frankly, I feel the same way about the UConn Health Center. I think it's a fantastic project. I think it's innovative project. I think this project we're talking about that's funded in this bill is a fantastic project, and goes hand in hand with those efforts. And we're really building upon something here. It's, sort of, long-term strategy. So yes, good stuff. But here's the problem that we do all the time here. Instead of reprioritizing, we add on. We just add on more and more money. What do I mean by that?

The University of Connecticut, my alma mater, which I am so incredibly proud of, and incredibly proud to be a part of a General Assembly and have voted for the UConn 2000 and the UConn 21st century projects. Why? It transformed that university. It transformed, no doubt about it. Every bit of that money was money well spent. But right now, as we speak, of the \$2 billion, 700 and -- almost \$740 million of that money has not even been spent yet.

Now, in fairness, much of it has been committed. But there's about \$127 million in that long list that

hasn't been funded yet. They're for projects that are ideas and concepts. Architects haven't been hired. There hasn't been planning.

Now, I'm not saying those ideas are bad, but just like every household has to do, just like we did in the State, wouldn't it be prudent for the University of Connecticut to reprioritize? You know, what we did in 1995, '96, '98, and the plants that were set forth then, it's good to have that long-term vision. But sometimes you have to reprioritize, given the fiscal condition we find ourselves in. The economy today is far different than it was in 1995.

So if, in fact, the new priority for the University of Connecticut is to enhance their medical and dental school and their hospital, or to create this technical research park, touche. Right on. That's great. But not they have to, and should be able to reprioritize. But in fairness to the University of Connecticut, they've never been asked to that. And why haven't they been asked to do that? Because we just give them the extra money, so there's no need to do that.

Doesn't it behoove us to say, hey, UConn, we want to support you. We want to support you and your priorities. We can't do them all, so you'll have to

reprioritize. We want you to enhance your mental -- medical and dental school and the -- the hospital associated therewith. We want you to have this wonderful research tech park. But you're going to have to reprioritize what we already gave you. We just can't dump another -- what is it -- 250-extra million dollars for the hospital and here, another 150 million -- that's \$450 million on top of \$2 billion, 740 of which haven't been spent yet. We, as a Legislature, need to help the University of Connecticut reprioritize. And you do that by saying, we're not going to give you more money, but we will help you in statute to change what you've already allocated, so you can accomplish your goals.

And to that end, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment whose number of which I can't find on my desk, right now.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

But I'll bet it looks something like 8377.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

You know, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what it looks like. May he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

ESP is just remarkable.

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 8377, which is -- will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A". Will the Clerk please call the amendment.

THE CLERK:

LCO 8377, House "A," offered by Representative Cafero -- Williams.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I almost feel that maybe you should do this for me. You are reading my mind all day. But in any event, ladies and gentlemen, what this does is strike Section 92. That portion of the bonding bill before us that pertains to this \$154 million, not as a punishment to the University of Connecticut, not even as a way to say, we don't like the project. We like the project. But as a way to say, hey, reprioritize within the money that we've already given to you. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on adoption. Would you remark, sir?

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In asking for adoption, I really said, again, this is not a statement of UConn, a school I love and am proud of, and that we should all be proud of.

This is not saying do not go forth with that project. This is saying times are tough. Borrowing money costs us money. We can't do it all. So let's come back in another vehicle in the next two days and reprioritize the money we've already given you so you can accomplish your goals of what you need to do with the hospital and what you need to do with this technical part.

Mr. Speaker, it would leave the rest of the bonding bill in total tact, a product, I think, all members of the General Assembly could be proud of and, therefore, I would urge adoption of this amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Boukus, on House Amendment Schedule "A".

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you do not know how much this pains

me to not be able to support the Minority's position here. But he read my mind earlier today, because I had a conversation with Representative Piscopo, and I have had many, many conversations recently with Senator Fonfara. And you are absolutely correct in the oversight that we need to do, and we are planning to do that most of the summer, and have invited Representative Piscopo to join us.

So, unfortunately, I'd have to ask my colleagues to, at this time, vote against this amendment. It pains me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Floren on House "A".

Representative Piscopo on House "A".

REP. PISCOPO (76th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, real quickly, I think the argument goes to process. And it's happened a couple of times already in -- in the Finance Committee, with about three weeks left to go, this huge, new development in the UConn Health Center came about.

Now, as the Minority Leader says, a lot of this may be great. It might be good project and we should take a good hard look at it. But with three weeks to

go in -- in the session, that's not -- that's not good for the process. And now, with three days to go, we're deciding on another \$154 million. And that's where the argument goes. It should come in front. What's the hurry here? It should come in front of the bonding subcommittee next February. We lay out all the plans, put it in phases; design, phase one. Look at the scope of the project. Maybe we don't need that large of a project. Maybe we need a smaller project.

Bonding subcommittee, I'm very proud of. We do very good work and we work hard on this stuff. And to just bypass that whole process of the bonding subcommittee, full debate in the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, and then the debate in both chambers on these projects, it -- it just flies in the face of the whole legislative branch of government. So that's -- that's where the argument goes. We could do this in February, take a hard look, and let it go through the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Williams.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon.

Just briefly, in support of the amendment that's before us. And I, too, would like to thank Representative Floren, our ranking member, and Representative Boukus and the entire committee.

The bond bill that's before us, perhaps after this amendment, is a great bond bill. And I think that, you know, it has done a it has done a lot of the things that we've wanted to do over the years. We've wanted to removing earmarks. We've wanted to change the process. And I think to that end, they accomplished that goal.

But we here we are today, as Representative Piscopo indicated, we have a piece of this bond bill, the UConn technology Park, which has not gone through a great process. We have UConn Health Center that's in the very same boat. And so, you know, we've heard from the Governor and from legislative leaders this is a great idea because we are going to help create jobs. We're going to position the University of Connecticut, whom we all love, to be at the cutting edge of technology, and I think that's a laudable goal.

But folks, we did not go through a process with regard to this piece of the bond bill that I think most of us can be very proud of. And so, I would urge

adoption of the amendment and -- and I ask that when it -- the vote be taken, it be taken by roll.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on a roll call vote. All those in favor, signify it by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

When the vote is taken, it will be taken by roll call.

Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"? Will you remark further on House amendment Schedule "A"? 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 taking a roll call vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

All the members voted? If so, the machine will be locked.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On House Amendment "A," House Bill 1242.

Total number voting 133

Necessary for adoption 67

Those voting Yea 48

Those voting Nay 85

Those absent and not voting 18

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The amendment is rejected.

Will you remark further on the emergency certified bill?

Representative Coutu.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, through you, to the proponent of the bill. In general obligation bond authorizations, fiscal year '11 to fiscal year '12, am I correct to state that we have a \$300 million increase?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Boukus.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Could the kind gentleman rephrase, or give it to us again?

REP. COUTU (47th):

In the general obligation bond authorization, fiscal year '11 to fiscal year '12, there's a \$300 million increase in bonding.

REP. BOUKUS (22nd):

Could you -- through you, Mr. Speaker -- could he --

REP. COUTU (47th):

Okay, Madam Speaker, I'll just leave it at just --  
DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

That would be Mr. Speaker.

REP. COUTU (47th):

Mr. Speaker, from fiscal year '11 to fiscal year '12, there's a \$500 million increase in bonding. We, as a State, have 11 percent. We are pushing every year 11 percent total bonding for the whole budget. In states like Virginia, who have 5 percent -- and it shocks me that we can add hundreds of millions within a week of the end of session on our bonding packages. And I'm always concerned about that, Mr. Speaker, and I just want to make that clear.

It was stated that the government will be creating jobs in some of this bonding package. And I always have a question, is that true? But so be it, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

My good friend from Brookfield, Representative  
Scribner.

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Glad you know the difference, sir. Continue.

REP. SCRIBNER (107th):

I shall.

It's been my privilege to be a part of the bonding  
process on finance for quite a few years now, and  
further, I have the privilege of serving on both of the  
subcommittees, general bonding as well as  
transportation bonding.

I fully appreciate and recognize the concerns that  
we rightfully have in regard to the State's level of  
indebtedness. And I believe that that process has  
been, in some ways, tightened. I think that we go  
through a very thorough process of reviewing requests  
from state agencies, as well as the needs to serve the  
people of Connecticut.

And I believe the document that is before us, in

each area, addresses that responsibly. I'd like to focus a little bit on the transportation bonding, specifically, and also, thank the chair of the transportation bonding subcommittee, Representative Ayala, who's done a fine job and has been a gentleman to work with.

We need to make the commitments and help to supplement the federal funding that we get in order to secure that as well as proceed with vital projects having to do with our ports, having to do with our highways, bridges and rail system, as well as the airports here in Connecticut. And I believe that we've accomplished that in this document.

So I'd like to thank each of the leaders on the committee, particularly Representative Boukus, from our own Chamber, and ranking member, Livvy Floren, who have done a phenomenal job, and I encourage the support of the Chamber. Thank you.

REP. GODFREY (110th):

Thank you, sir. Representative Floren.

REP. FLOREN (149th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to, before I begin, to thank my colleague and my friend, Representative Betty Boukus.

She's done a great job. And I'd also like to mention Mary Finnigan, Linda Miller and Steve Kidovich. They are wise. They're professional, and they're patient beyond measure. This bond bill is exactly as Representative Boukus has presented. In fact, it's very much like Representative Boukus, what you see is what you get. Each of us is very, very concerned about the large amounts of money that we do bond. None of us wants to incur any more debt or any more debt service. However, this bond package work product is, for the most part, a pure play. It's relatively restrained. It's reasonable. And in my mind, it's fiscally responsible. It contains no earmarks and it does not bond for operating expenses.

After three days of our bonding subcommittee hearings and talking to every agency that exists in the State, and after many hours of bipartisan follow-up deliberation, the bond bill was crafted to emphasize technology improvements, technology integration, technology upgrades. It also was crafted to help the infrastructure, including -- including correcting Senator Fonfara's pet peeve, which is deferred maintenance.

We are now prepared to preserve and properly

maintain our inventory of state properties. These are valuable and varied assets which have been shamefully neglected for many, many years.

To me, this bond package encourages cost effectiveness and efficiency. It creates job opportunities. It is a good bill and it ought to pass. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Words of wisdom, Representative Floren. Thank you very much. The gentleman from Griswold, Representative Mikutel.

But before -- before you begin, sir -- that's better.

Representative Mikutel.

REP. MIKUTEL (45th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just want to make the observation that that was already made. For the first time in two years, this bond package does not reflect borrowing for covering shortfalls in the budget, and that is a good thing. It was bad public policy to borrow for covering current operating expenses, and that which did lead to a downgrade in our bonds by Wall Street.

So the emphasis in this bond package, to me, is

on capital investments that improve the quality of life for the State of Connecticut and focus on job development, and that's where we should be heading. So it's nice to know that I think we are using our bonding money in a much more appropriate manner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. The gentleman from Litchfield, Representative Miner.

Declined. Very good, sir.

My good friend from Stratford, Representative Larry Miller.

Representative Larry Miller.

REP. L. MILLER (122nd):

I'm sleeping.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

It's the sun in your eyes. I understand, Representative.

REP. L. MILLER (122nd):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to thank Betty Boukus for the job she's done, my good friend on the other side of the aisle. Now, having said that, I'd like to talk about the ports.

The Panama Canal is expanding and they are going

to double the capacity of the Panama Canal within a year or two.

Every terminal on the East Coast has expanded and is preparing to see a lot more new business. Every port, Mr. Speaker, except Connecticut. Once again, we are sleeping at the wheel, not paying attention. Ports are a very good source of high-paying jobs and they bring a lot of money into our State. And yet, we're doing nothing with them.

There's \$6 million in the bond package here, \$1 million for a study. We do have a commission called the Connecticut Maritime Commission, made up of 11 professionals from the three areas where the ports are located, who could do this study for, maybe, a hundred thousand dollars. And I think it's a waste of money to do a study that's going to cost a million dollars when all these professionals know exactly what's the problem, what they should be doing, and how they should do it.

But, again, everybody is geared up. Florida is dredging to 45 foot depth. The ports up the Coast, Maryland, and Savannah, and all of them are -- are doing a big job with dredging. Rhode Island has got 40 feet now, and they also got some money for new cranes for

the dock from the federal government. And again, Connecticut, sleeping at the wheel. Not doing a darn thing. We have probably lost out on a lot of money we should have gotten over the years. So I have a problem with that, Mr. Speaker.

And I think that this body -- I know the Governor was concerned about our ports and wanted to do something. I think this body should take the bull by the horns and say, you know, look it. We've got three deep-water ports that are here. We are very fortunate to have them. They can make us a ton of money. They can provide us with unbelievable jobs. Longshoremen get paid, maybe, 50, 60 bucks an hour plus benefits. That's the kind of stuff we need in the state of Connecticut. The ports are here. Let's utilize them and forget the study. Again, we have the Connecticut Maritime Commission. These are guys that are all professionals and could do the same study for a hundred thousand bucks.

So again, I thank Betty Boukus for all her work, and that's all I have to say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the emergency certified bill? Will you remark further on the emergency certified bill? 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 GODFREY:

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

Have all the members voted? If all the members have been -- voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take the tally and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Emergency Certified Bill, Senate Bill 1242.

Total number voting	132
Necessary for passage	67
Those voting Yea	121
Those voting Nay	11
Those absent and not voting	19

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Emergency Certified bill is passed.

Representative Carter, for what purpose do you rise?

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to be recorded in the affirmative. Is it too late?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

It's too late, but the transcript will so note. Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the affirmative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The transcript will so note. Will -- will the Clerk please call Calendar 241.

THE CLERK:

On page 43, Calendar 241, Substitute for House Bill Number 6540, AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHWAY SAFETY, STATE FACILITY TRAFFIC AUTHORITIES, MUNICIPAL BUILDING DEMOLITION, STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION CERTIFICATES AT GRADE CROSSINGS, THE NAMING OF ROADS AND BRIDGES IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND A TRAIN STATION IN NIANTIC, favorable report by the Committee on Public safety.

**S - 627**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL. 54  
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4951 - 5268**

Certified Senate Bill 1242.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 3, with Emergency Certified Senate Bill Number 1242, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AUTHORIZING SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE STATE FOR TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES, AND AUTHORIZING STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, introduced by Senator Williams of the 29th District and Representative Donovan of the 84th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Good morning, Madam President.

I move the emergency certified bill and ask that we --

THE CHAIR:

Questions on approval of the bill? Will you remark further?

SENATOR DAILY:

I certainly will. There are the usual things that one would expect in a bond bill for different state agencies. I think if you read the bill carefully you'd be surprised at how many agencies we have.

There are two things that would be different than what we usually see. One is the UConn Research and

Technology Park. And for that, in the first year, it is \$18 million, in the second year, \$154 -- \$154 million. That is for a very exciting thing that we voted on just recently. It's part of what was in our vote. And it's the creation of the research and technology park at UCONN's's main campus in Storrs.

It could create and will create thousands of jobs by increasing opportunities in product development, information systems, and biomedical engineering. An example of what other research parks have realized; the Research Triangle in North Carolina, 170 companies, 50,000 jobs; Purdue Research Park in Indiana, 140 companies, 40 buildings; research Park at the University of Illinois, 1,000 jobs.

This will be costly. Initial design is \$18 million, the building itself is \$118 million, equipment is \$40 million, the water line and infrastructure is \$13.75 million, and it will take 4 years to design and construct.

Connecticut first discussed plans for a tech park in the early 1980s. And in 1985, the General Assembly authorized UConn to lease property to non-profit to manage projects. UConn already has many of the necessary permits and environmental impact statements completed.

It shows you how behind the eight ball we have been with this, and how much we need to catch up and move forward, and take this action that will create jobs, create so much in the way of good, solid research, high-paying jobs, it's just what we need to

move our state right now.

The other item that's different than what we've had in many of our bills is an incentive for towns to work together to buy equipment that they need to run their government. It would be what cities and towns do together. I'm going to yield to the good Senator, but are there any questions that anybody would like to pose to me on this general government before we discuss transportation?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President, and good morning.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning.

SENATOR RORABACK:

I thank Senator Daily for the invitation to field questions. Madam President, as Senator Daily indicated, this bill largely represents something that has been before the members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee and any interested member of the Legislature for a long time.

And so my questions, Madam President, and -- and I have to say I was very proud this year that the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee and the Bonding Subcommittee, in particular, did not extend an invitation for earmarks, recognizing that, in these times, it would be a particularly kind of unseemly thing to be inviting Legislators to come in with their favorite pet pork project.

And that discipline was adhered to in both Chambers and in both parties, and I think that speaks well of us as an institution. Madam President, what I rise to question Senator Daily about is the UConn Initiative, which I believe, through you, Madam President, she referenced is something that sprang from something else we've done recently. And through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily, is this money tied to the UConn Health Center Initiative that was discussed a couple of evenings ago?

Through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Madam President, and through you. Yes, to the best of my knowledge this is part of the Bioscience Initiative that's part of what we voted on the other night.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President. And does that mean that this facility will be constructed in Farmington?

SENATOR DAILY:

In Storrs. Oh, I'm sorry, through you, Madam President.

SENATOR RORABACK:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Madam President. This is in Storrs.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

SENATOR RORABACK:

And through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily, I'm confused because I don't remember, in the context of the UConn Health Center Bill being debated and discussed, any mention of the word Storrs or the Storrs campus. And I also am confused because in the context of that bill, my recollection, which is often faulty, was that there would be no new additional bonding until 2014, and that what passed the other night wasn't going to have an impact on this year's bonding bill.

So through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily, and I will not be hurt if Senator Daily says I am mistaken, as I often am. Through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily, does she think I am mistaken?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily, please proceed.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you, Madam President, to the best of my knowledge, only a little. There was, as I recall, discussion about Storrs and the role that would play, that there would be research there as well as in Farmington. I don't think anybody discussed this exact bonding item.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Roraback.

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SENATOR RORABACK:

Thank you, Madam President.

And it's -- and it's late at night and I certainly don't want to stay here anymore than anyone else does, so I'm going to sit down and maybe do a little bit of digging while others ask questions to reeducate myself about the extent to which this new \$170 million in bonding for the -- this biennium was represented to us as being a constituent component of the UConn Health Center project that was passed the other night, and then I will maybe come back and report my findings.

And I thank Senator Daily for answers, and I thank the chamber for their indulgence. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?  
Will you remark further?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

A couple of quick questions, through you.

THE CHAIR:

Quick is fine.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

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Senator Daily, I believe it was last night, although it's easy to confuse the nights these days, that you stood up and you announced to the Chamber that we had a debt capacity -- remaining debt capacity of approximately \$5.5 billion. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Through you, Madam President, yes, it is.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you. And through you, Madam President, I'm wondering if you can give us a thumbnail sketch of how we arrive at the debt capacity of \$5.5 billion, and if you can tell us what our existing outstanding long-term debt, not short-term, but long-term debt is for the State of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Madam President, if we might stand at ease for a minute, please.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, and I apologize to the chamber for the delay.

THE CHAIR:

No problem.

SENATOR DAILY:

Senator Frantz, the information is from the treasurer's letter certifying what we are able to bond -- and from the Debt Management Division. For 2011, as of June 3rd, today, the capacity remaining before the 90 percent limit is one million, six hundred, forty-seven thousand -- no 1 billion, six hundred forty-seven thousand, 22 million, two hundred forty dollars and twenty-nine cents. And then for general obligation bonds outstanding, \$10 billion, and the 90 percent of the debt limit is \$20 billion, and that leaves us a capacity for a billion, six eighty-one.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you. And through you, Madam President, thank you for the answer. So 4.6, I might've misheard you the other night, but -- but still it appears that the bonding capacity is -- is fairly healthy, the remaining bonding capacity is fairly healthy in the State of Connecticut. Can I ask you this question, through you, Madam President, is -- is it fair to say that that remaining bonding capacity here in the last

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six months or nine months, two or three quarters, has that gone up significantly?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Madam President, and through you, Madam President, I don't have the answer. I'll be glad to get that and give it to you in the next few days.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you. And through you, thank you very much for that answer. In -- one final question for you, and that is, through you, Madam President, if we add up all of the requested bonding in this bill, including the STO funds, what would that amount to, just ballpark?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much. I'm not certain if this answers your question, but there's a net indebtedness of 15 billion, 501 million, four ten, four thirty.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you. And thank you, through you, Madam President, to Senator Daily, that's the last of my -- my questions here. I did a real quick calculation, I

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know I'm going to be off by at least a few percent, but it looks as though it's about 5.3 to 5.5 billion requested in this, and again, I could be off a little bit because I did it very quickly.

But that leads to a commentary. And that is that, we, here in Connecticut, have to be extremely careful. We have, already, on a per capita basis, one of the highest indebtedness ratings of all the 50 states. And we all know, because we were brought up by parents who were aware of the dangers of debt, that when we get overextended, it's an irreversible situation in many cases.

And Moody's and S&P will tell you that any state that exceeds the 10 percent debt service level as a percentage of their total budget is starting to get into trouble. And when you get up to 12 and 14 percent, there's a real big red flag that is raised, at least in -- in their minds, because they get to see the fiscal condition of all of the 50 states.

We're currently at about 10.3 percent. And we are looking at borrowing significant -- significant amounts of money going forward here very rapidly. I mean it's just barely the month of June and already we're -- we're starting to look at additional indebtedness for the State of Connecticut.

If you take into account other unfunded portions of the -- the liabilities going forward for the State of Connecticut, the next baby who is born -- I think, in Connecticut, there's one born every 11 or 12 minutes -- that -- that baby is facing something like

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24 or \$25,000 worth of debt before the child is even put into kindergarten, and that number is going to grow. We know that for sure.

And we also know that the power of compounding is the most powerful force in the universe. And even if it's compounding at a lower rate of three and-a-half percent, or whatever you want to consider the discount rate these days, or the rate of inflation, or the two of them put together, we know that over the course of 25 years, before someone becomes a useful taxpayer in the State of Connecticut or any state, that could become a much bigger number.

And we have to -- we have to wonder at what point have we reached the point of diminishing returns, where we -- we just can't catch up with the number mathematically. And that's personally what I'm concerned about up here.

And the unthinkable has happened at the national level. S&P was firing warning shots across the nation's bow, but now Moody's, just yesterday afternoon, came out with their warning. Saying that, not only because of the political wranglings that are going on in Washington D.C., but also because of the -- the serious amount of debt that we're facing, and because of the structural expenses that are -- that are -- that are sure to expand here continuously throughout the months and years, it's a number that we may never be able to catch up with.

And that's what they're very concerned about, and so they are very seriously considering downgrading

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U.S. sovereign debt. And the credit rating for the United States of America going down below its AA or AAA rating is something that none of us would've comprehended in the same way that we would've never comprehended on September 11, 2001, that the very next day that we would be attacked, and so many people would lose their lives and buildings would come down.

Taking an extreme example, the country of Greece went from about 100 percent debt to total GDP, gross domestic product, just a few years ago, to 150 percent. That is what, I think, we'd all consider to be thermonuclear runaway, with respect to the debt obligations that that country has. They're in peril, and thankfully the EU has come to the rescue. Germany, in particular, has -- has bailed them out here for the short-term, but longer term, I think we all know that this is an unsustainable situation. And I would hate to see Connecticut going down a road that puts us closer to a fiscal situation such as what Greece and so many other countries in Europe face.

So my only message tonight is let's be very, very conscious of what we're doing before we make the decision to go to the market, which appears to be there to lend us more money, as much as perhaps \$5 billion. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?  
Will you remark further?

Senator Daily.

SENATOR DAILY:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

And I thank Senator Frantz for his caution, and I think he's right to caution the Circle. But I think we'd be remiss if we missed this exciting opportunity to create jobs, to increase our research, to increase the standing of our flagship university. So I'm confident that the Governor will use all due caution and the treasurer will watch over our funds carefully, and I urge us to proceed down this road.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further.

SENATOR DAILY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. I would like to yield to Senator LeBeau to review the transportation part of this package.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau, will you accept your yield?

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President. I accept the yield.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Let me be brief in my remarks. The -- we are looking at something we do virtually every year. There's really nothing that is new in this package in terms of any major initiatives. And it's right in the ballpark of what we have bonded in the past to keep our -- our roads, our highways, our bridges, our railroads functioning and moving ahead.

Briefly, the bonding for fiscal year 2012 is a

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total STO bonding of approximately 578.6 million, \$578,600,000, and in the fiscal year 2013, \$515,239,000. The -- the major functions that -- that are the bureaus that we're funding are the Bureau of the Highways, Bureau of Aviation and Ports, the Bureau of Public Transportation, and the Bureau of Administration. I -- I'll leave it at that. If there are any questions, I'd be certainly happy to try to answer them.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?  
Will you remark further?

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you -- thank you, Madam President.

And I'm -- I rise to share with the Circle the school construction portion of this bond bill. The bill authorizes 284.9 million in grant commitments for 22 new local school construction projects, whether they're local projects, VOAC schools, or inter-district magnet schools. And quite frankly, that's one of the smallest numbers we've had in years for school construction.

So we can interpret that as that -- either it's a reflection of the economy, which I doubt, or it's just a reflection of the fact that we have done so much school bonding, and I really don't know how much there is left to do.

The bill also reauthorizes approximately 1.8 million in already existing projects. And it also,

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under the school construction portion of the bond bill, lists a variety of school construction, what we call notwithstanding, and these are projects that have approached -- excuse me -- approached the Department of Education, or fellow legislators, about issues within their school building projects that they would like some help with.

One of the new ideas in the notwithstanding portion is the fact that we are allowing the Department of Education to, sort of, address this issue in urban areas where there are brownfields. And as long as they're cleaned to the way they should be, many times it's less expensive to build a school, especially in an urban district rather than tear down a neighborhood, to build it in that brownfield. So that's a new program. We're going to give it about five years and see if there are any -- any takers. And that's about it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?  
Will you remark further?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, there was reference earlier to the new money, I think it was over \$170 million to the University of Connecticut for the research park at Storrs, and I obviously will let Senator Williams speak more about that. But in a conversation earlier today -- tonight, they all sort of merge together,

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don't they, Senator -- Senator Williams was discussing that to me.

And -- and while I -- I don't think it is part of the UConn Health Bioscience project we did, it is certainly something that marries very well with it and is, at least from my understanding in discussion with Senator Williams, a good project, and is something further, I understand, spearheaded by the Senator and -- and congratulations to him for that.

I rise not to object to that part. And I guess I rise as a broken record and perhaps I, you know, won't be welcome on campus too much any longer. But it is frustrating to me that with \$786 million, \$739.5 million left on UConn 2000/UConn 21st Century, after passage of and -- and -- and investments significantly greater than ever envisioned in the hospital, 700 -- \$864 million, not all in bonding for UConn, that the University of Connecticut doesn't see fit to change one dollar of 21st Century UConn to support more significant priorities, like the research park, that will create jobs and will be part of that bioscience corridor. That's where the money should go.

But we're not challenging the University of Connecticut to prioritize because we give them whatever they ask for. And at some point -- and I don't -- at some point, we're not going to be able to bond too much longer. And the overall bonding in this package is -- is within range of where we traditionally are, and that's also very good for us as a state.

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But I -- I -- I just feel compelled to ask that at -- at a time when we are in the worst recession that probably anyone of us have seen -- Phase 3 has, you know, \$35 million for an Avery Point campus library upgrade, and \$8 million for a bishop renovation, and \$1 million for a commissary warehouse, \$200 million for equipment, library collections, and telecommunications, another \$215 million for deferred maintenance -- why weren't they doing their maintenance -- \$6 million on farm building repairs, and \$3 million for a floriculture greenhouse, and \$31 million -- this is my favorite job producer, I'll take a pause -- \$31 million for intramural, recreational, intercollegiate facilities, yet to be spent in 21st Century UConn. That's not going to create a single job. And \$5 million for a library storage facility, not going to create a job, other than perhaps temporary jobs to construct, and I understand that. But I think the investments we're talking about in bioscience and the research park, in addition to -- to temporary, albeit important, construction jobs, are long-term jobs for the State of Connecticut. \$29 million more on the Mansfield Training School, \$15 million on parking garage number three, how much did we spend on parking garages number one and two?

Madam President, the list goes on. As I said the total \$739.5 million, at least \$150 million of which has not even had an architect selected yet, so they haven't invested the money. Oh, we have to spend \$1 million on the UConn product store, that's going to

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create a lot of jobs. I'm sorry to do this. I do care about the University of Connecticut. This state has been fantastic to the University of Connecticut. But we're sprung with 170 million new dollars, which I think is a good project, and the University of Connecticut won't give a dollar, a dollar of that \$739.5 million left, not one dollar. And we didn't challenge them to do it, and we should've. We should've challenged them to do it.

Because some point, next year, the year after, people like me and others who -- who have constituents and live right next to a community college -- I represent Fairfield, Connecticut. I drive past Housatonic Community College every day to come up here. Wonderful renovations have happened there.

But our community colleges and gateway community colleges have renovations. But they may say, wait a minute, we want to do more too. And then the CSU System, which is also been invested heavily by our state, wait a minute, we want to do more too. And at what point do we draw the line? At what point do we force anyone, whether it's UConn, or private developers, or everyone in between, to prioritize our spending and borrowing. That's what's lacking here.

Again, I'll end by saying the project that Senator Williams has spearheaded and worked on that is in here, from my initial review, seems to be an excellent one. I don't criticize it. What I criticize is the lack of prioritization, and the lack of a willingness of a university to say, wait a

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minute, we can spend \$170 million on research and technology and create jobs and coordinate with the health center and coordinate with the biotech and bioscience companies along that corridor, and in exchange for doing that, we're willing to maybe delay some renovations of some dorms, or not do a new commissary warehouse, or not renovate our UConn product store. So that's what I wish they would've been asked to do. That's what I think we should've challenged them to do. And I'm going to, I guess, continue to talk about these things until, maybe, one day we do challenge them to prioritize some of their spending.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?

Senator Williams.

SENATOR WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to thank Eileen Daily and Senator LeBeau and Senator Stillman and all the folks who've worked on the bill, also, to thank my colleagues who sit next to me on either side, Senator Roraback and Senator McKinney, for their comments specifically on the research and development center and technology park at the University of Connecticut.

Actually, Senator Daily and Senator Roraback are both, sort of, right. This project is related to what's going on in Farmington, although it is not a part of, it is not directly a part of that project. They will definitely enhance each other, but this is a

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separate project.

As a matter of fact, this has its roots in a project that commenced about 20 years ago. A tremendous amount of work was done, but the shovel never formally went into the ground. So you had all the studies that were done, you had an entry road that was almost completed. A lot of the site work was put into place. The exact site was absolutely defined.

For better or worse, that did not happen for a variety of reasons for Connecticut, including the fact that I think the wrong development model was used. There was a lawsuit between the State and the developer, et cetera and, unfortunately, that did not come to pass for the benefit of Connecticut's students, professors, a private partner -- private-public partnership, and mostly importantly, for private investment and the creation of jobs in the State of Connecticut.

So we have that opportunity now to go forward. So this has been a separate project. It was in the bill that came -- excuse me, Madam President, I'm losing voice here at this late hour -- it was in the -- the bill that came out of the Finance Committee. But, at that point, the initial funding for infrastructure, for water lines, for completing that entry road, were included.

There's additional funding that completes the project in terms of the first building, which will contain laboratory space, will contain incubator space. It will allow us then to leverage additional

private funding and private investment, in terms of research and development, the creation of new products, innovation, and the creation of jobs for the State of Connecticut.

So I thank Senator Roraback for his question earlier. Also, I thank Senator McKinney for his acknowledgment of this project as good for the state, good for the university, and moving us forward. And certainly, in terms of the other funding under UConn 2000 21st Century, we know that is committed to other projects and we would like to see that either completed or those dollars returned. But with that, Madam President, thank you, and I support this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further?  
Will you remark?

If not, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

Very well, okay. Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked.

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

THE CLERK:

Madam President, total number voting on Emergency

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Certified Bill Number 1242.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	23
Those voting Nay	13
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill has been passed. Will you remark further? At this point, are there any points of personal privilege or announcements? If not --

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, for a journal notation.

THE CHAIR:

Please -- please proceed.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Senator Gerratana was absent for part of the session this evening due to an obligation due to a death in her family.

THE CHAIR:

It will so be noted.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, it's our intent to convene later today at -- at noon. I hope that all of our members will be careful and stay alert driving home for a few hours of sleep, and would move, Madam President, that the Senate stand adjourned subject to the Call of the Chair.

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THE CHAIR:

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

If not, Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President.

I appreciate that pause. I guess we'll move  
this to the Consent Calendar if there's no  
objection.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would move for immediate  
transmittal to the House of Representatives of the  
emergency certified Senate Bill 1242 upon which the  
Senate acted last evening.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if we might stand at ease for  
just a moment.