

PA 11-062

SB0377

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL.54  
PART 27  
8965 – 9294**

Senate Bill Number 912 as amended by House "A".

Total number voting	141
Necessary for passage	71
Those voting Yea	136
Those voting Nay	5
Those absent and not voting	10

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill as amended is passed. At this point I'd like to call Representative Sharkey, the majority leader.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. Or good morning.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good morning, sir. Good evening.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the following items to the consent calendar. They are Calendar --

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you. They are Calendars 526, Calendar 607, Calendar --

Let's start again. Calendar 526 which is Senate Bill 377; calendar 607 which is Senate Bill 1216; Calendar 494

law/lxe/jr/fst/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

804  
June 7, 2011

THE CLERK:

What page is it on?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Clerk, please call Calendar 592 which is the  
beginning of the Consent Calendar.

SB 863 SB 1201

SB 852 SB 888

SB 377 SB 1216

SB 1003 SB 371

THE CLERK:

On page 32, Calendar 592, Substitute for Senate Bill  
Number 858, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION STATUTES.

SB 1112

SB 881 SB 1076

SB 518 SB 1098

A VOICE:

Mr. Speaker, this represents the Consent Calendar,  
and I would move that we vote on it as such.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

There's a Consent Calendar. Staff and guests,  
please come to the well of the House. Members take their  
seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call.  
Members to the Chamber. The House is voting the Consent  
Calendar by roll call. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members  
voted? Please check the roll call board. Make sure your  
vote's been properly cast. If all the members have voted,

the machine will be locked. The clerk will please take a tally. Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar:

Total number voting 139

Necessary for passage 70

Those voting Yea 139

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 12

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Consent Calendar's passed.

Any announcements or introductions?

Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (78th):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. For a general rotation.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. PISCOPO (78th):

Will the general please notes that Representatives Kokoruda and Noujaim missed votes ue to you illness in the family. Representative Rigby missed votes due to business in the district. Will the transcript please note that Representatives Candelora, Wood and Williams

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL. 54  
PART 5  
1390 - 1734**

djp/gbr  
SENATE

34  
May 12, 2011

Calendar 49, Senate Bill 480, Madame President move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Madame President moving to Calendar page 36,  
Calendar 232, Senate Bill 835, Madame President move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Moving to Calendar page 37, Madame President,  
Calendar 238, Senate Bill 1062, move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Moving to Calendar page 42, Calendar 384, Senate Bill 377, move to place that item also on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

djp/gbr  
SENATE

35  
May 12, 2011

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Madame President if the Clerk might call the  
first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment,  
please.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting on the first roll call.  
Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? The  
Senate is voting on the first roll call. Will all  
Senators please return to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President. Before we get ahead  
of ourselves a little bit, as I said I'd ask the Clerk  
to call the items on the first Consent Calendar. But,



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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

before doing that and before voting on that Consent Calendar, we have one additional item to add which is Calendar page 40, Calendar 327, House Bill 6330.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President. Now if the Clerk might call all of the items on the Consent Calendar before calling for a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk will you please call the bills?

THE CLERK:

From Calendar page 1, Calendar 489, Senate Joint Resolution 47; Calendar page 8, Calendar 226 substitute for Senate Bill 1153; Calendar page 9, Calendar 233, substitute for Senate Bill 1064; Calendar page 9, Calendar 248, Senate Bill 1150; Calendar page 11, Calendar 301, substitute of Senate Bill 518; Calendar page 12, Calendar 332, House Bill 6444; Calendar page 15, Calendar 407, substitute of Senate Bill 1209; Calendar page 16, Calendar 411, House Bill 6370; Calendar page 17, Calendar 415, House Bill 6275; Calendar page 17, Calendar 418, House Bill 6276; Calendar page 18, Calendar 424, House Bill 6270;

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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

Calendar page 21, Calendar 453, substitute for House Bill 6279; Calendar page 28, Calendar 49, substitute for Senate Bill 480; Calendar page 34, Calendar 173, Senate Bill 1047; Calendar page 36, Calendar 232, Senate Bill 835; Calendar page 37, Calendar 238, substitute for Senate Bill 1062; Calendar page 39, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 737; Calendar page 42, Calendar 384, substitute for Senate Bill 377.

That completes the items previously placed on the Consent Calendar.

Madame President, I am told that there is one more item to place. Page 40, Calendar 327. HB6330

And, one other correction, Madame President. On page 39, Calendar 302, that was voted on previously, SB737 so we take that off the Consent Calendar.

That should complete the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. At this time I would ask you to call for a roll call vote and I will open the machine.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting on the first Consent Calendar. Would all Senators please return to the Chamber? The Senate is voting on the first Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the

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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?  
If all members have voted the machine will be locked  
and Mr. Clerk, will you tell the tally?

THE CLERK:

Madame President	
Total Number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar 1 has passed, is adopted.  
The Senate will stand at ease for a moment,  
please.

(Chamber at ease)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**SELECT  
COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS  
1 – 230**

**2011  
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REP. NICASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. John, to answer your question. Yes, I do have a card. Okay. It's my retirement card from the military, but I'll tell you an incident that took place in Plainville, in fact.

I was at Lowe's there and I was getting my discount and the gentleman right behind me who was a Vietnam veteran but didn't have any card or anything like that, and they wouldn't give them the discount and that hurt me. I felt bad for him.

In fact, I wanted to take his product and pay for it so they'd give me, and then he'd pay me, you know what I'm saying, because here's a guy that was in Vietnam, wounded, yet he didn't have anything to prove that, you know, that he was a veteran and they wouldn't give him the discount, and it makes a lot of sense.

We've got to do something on this because it makes a lot of sense. It truly does. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure this out. I want to thank you for your testimony, truly, and thank you for your e-mail the other day.

JOHN ANZIDEI: I appreciate that, and once again, thank you for giving me this opportunity to be here, in this great country of ours where someone like me can come here and testify before a committee.

What a great country. We should be thankful every day that we get up that we live in a country with such greatness. Thank you very much.

REP. HENNESSY: Thank you, John. Senator Martin Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Representative Hennessy and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. My name is Martin Looney. I represent the 11th Senatorial

Sb377

District, New Haven and Hamden, also, Senator  
Majority Leader.

And I'm here today to testify in favor of Senate  
Bill 377 AN ACT CONCERNING INTEREST OWED ON  
PROPERTY TAXES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON  
ACTIVE DUTY.

This issue was brought to my attention by a  
constituent who, while he was serving on active  
duty in the military, missed his property tax  
bill. When he wrote to me, he had already paid  
the bill, but he thought that the system was  
unfair since there was no discretion to waive any  
interest at the municipal level, and I had to  
agree.

This bill does not mandate the towns must forgive  
interest owed by members of the Armed Forces on  
property taxes. But it does give the towns  
discretion to waive this interest if the  
situation warrants.

Active duty members of the Armed Forces are often  
away from their mail for significant periods,  
traveling. Often their residential situation is  
not all that settled.

They should not be penalized for their service to  
our country in this way. I believe this is a  
matter of fairness and a small recognition for  
members of the military who are sacrificing so  
much for us.

And, Mr. Chairman, also, I understand that the  
Conference of Connecticut Municipalities had  
expressed some opposition to this bill, and I  
find their reason for it, very, in fact, quite  
craven. This is what they said, basically is,  
don't pass this bill because if it does pass  
we'll have to grant it because nobody wants to  
not do it, but don't put it on the books so we'll  
still be shielded by state from having to do it.  
Now, that was the essence of their argument,  
which I was, which I found frankly appalling.

But, so, Mr. Chairman, I would urge for support of this bill. Again, the CCM called it a mandate, in effect, by establishing the option that many municipalities would feel compelled to enact.

Well, let them make that decision on their own, but I would urge that that be created as an option for municipalities to consider.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. HENNESSY: Thank you, Senator Looney. And I totally agree with you that this is a good bill and ought to pass and I was surprised to see the testimony coming from Planning and Development and Environment.

I've seen CCM's testimony a lot, and I was surprised to see that it was following me here to this Committee and now I understand why the reasons, and I hope we can get this forward because our servicemen shouldn't be caught unaware like this.

Any comments? Yes, Senator.

SENATOR WELCH: Senator Looney, one question with respect to the intent. It's a little bit unclear to me. Is the intent that the municipality has the discretion to waive the interest for all veterans who miss?

In other words, it's a decision they make at a point in time and it would apply to anybody, or is the discretion for each person that misses on a case by case basis?

SENATOR LOONEY: Well, it would be for those who are on active duty veterans. In other words, not someone who was a, you know, a veteran perhaps of, let's suppose someone who is a Korean War, World War II veteran, but has lived in the town for 40 years and hasn't been away recently, I don't think it would apply in that situation.

But for an active duty person who was on duty in Iraq or Afghanistan missed a property tax bill for that purpose, I think that that's the circumstance under which they ought to be able to evaluate and waive the penalties in that regard.

SENATOR WELCH: I got that. I guess my question wasn't clear, and I apologize for that.

So, is the decision the town is making that we're going to waive interest on all active duty veterans who missed their property tax payments, or is this bill asking, just giving the discretion to the municipality?

So say there's ten veterans who are on active duty and they miss their payments, so there's a penalty and interest that apply. Do they then review each one of those cases on a case by case basis or is the decision made up front that anybody who misses will then be covered as long as they're on active duty.

SENATOR LOONEY: No. I think the intent is on a case by case basis, whatever the situation warrants, that they would have to investigate the circumstances under which the payment was missed and judge whether inequity that represented a good enough reason to bit to waive the interest.

SENATOR WELCH: Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

REP. HENNESSY: Thank you, Senator Welch for that question. Senator Nicastro. Representative Nicastro.

REP. NICASTRO: Thanks for the promotion. Senator Looney. We as a group from Bristol, we submitted legislation also asking for the authority for the municipalities to be able to negotiate with delinquent taxpayers.

The state has that authority already. The municipalities don't have that authority. We put a bill together, Senator Welch and myself, and



Representative Betts and Representative Boukus and Representative Wright, we put a bill in asking for the authority to be able to negotiate.

You're talking strictly veterans and I can strongly appreciate that, and truly, but we submitted this because we think it's actually unfair because there can be circumstances where something happened where somebody moves or something like that, they don't get a bill or whatever happens.

So we submitted. That's moving along. We don't know where it stands, but I can appreciate where you're coming from and you have my support on this.

SENATOR LOONEY: Thank you, Representative.

REP. NICASTRO: I just wanted you to know that.

REP. HENNESSY: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR LOONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.

REP. HENNESSY: The next witness is Michael J. Fox.

MICHAEL J. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hennessy, distinguished members of the Committee. It's a pleasure for me to be here to comment on some of the bills coming up.

SB 374  
HB 5058  
SB 371

My name is Michael J. Fox. I'm from Newington. I currently serve as the Third District Commander of the VFW in Connecticut and I am a Vietnam veteran, served one term in Vietnam, arrived there toward the tail end of (inaudible) 68 and left a year after that as engineer unit leader, commander of the 135th Engineer Detachment in Phu Hiep.

I'm here to talk about three of the proposed bills that are in front of you. That's not to say I don't approve or support the rest of them, but these are the three I chose to comment about.



**TESTIMONY**  
 of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
 to the  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
 February 10, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

S.B. 126      "An Act Concerning Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans"  
S.B. 377      "An Act Concerning Interest Owed on Property Taxes by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty"

S.B. 126 would mandate special property tax treatment for disabled veterans.

It is no secret that towns and cities, along with the State, are struggling during this unprecedented recession. Hometowns need their state leaders to focus on means to help save local budgets money – and not new mandates that will cost additional money.

S.B. 377 would permit municipal tax collectors to waive any amount of interest accrued on unpaid property taxes and owed by a municipal resident, provided such resident was a member of the armed forces on active duty at the time such taxes were due and during the time period when such interest accrued.

A worthy proposal, S.B. 377 would establish a "mandate in effect" by establishing the "option" that many municipalities will feel compelled to enact, especially when the country is involved in two wars. In a situation such as this, the State seeks to buy good will from a segment of the public – with local property tax dollars. Simply put, your hometown cannot afford such a new unfunded state mandate as this bill would impose.

**CCM urges the Committee to obtain detailed fiscal analyses on the impact these well-intended proposals would have on our communities -- particularly on local programs and services -- before voting on these bills.**

CCM urges the Committee to **hold these proposals** until further analyses are conducted.

## ## ##

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara of CCM at [rlabanara@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rlabanara@ccm-ct.org).

SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY  
MAJORITY LEADER

Eleventh District  
*New Haven & Hamden*



State of Connecticut

SENATE

State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591  
132 Fort Hale Road  
New Haven, Connecticut 06512  
Home: 203-468-8829  
Capitol: 860-240-8600  
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420  
[www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov)

February 10, 2011

Good Morning Senator Maynard, Representative Hennessy, and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am here today to testify in favor of SB 377,

***AN ACT CONCERNING INTEREST OWED ON PROPERTY TAXES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY.***

This issue was brought to my attention by a constituent who, while he was serving in the military, missed his property tax bill. When he wrote to me, he had already paid the bill but he thought that the system was unfair. I had to agree. This bill does not mandate that towns must forgive interest owed by members of the armed forces on property taxes; it gives towns discretion to waive this interest if the situation warrants. Active duty members of the armed forces are often away from their mail for significant periods. They should not be penalized for their service to our country. I believe this is a matter of fairness and a small recognition for the members of the military who are sacrificing so much. Thank you.