

PA 11-095

HB5482

House	3311-3330	20
<u>Senate</u>	<u>6555, 6573-6578</u>	<u>7</u>
		<b>27</b>

**H - 1101**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL.54  
PART 10  
3113 - 3437**

lxe/law/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

45  
May 18, 2011

Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6513.

Total Number voting 136

Necessary for passage 69

Those voting Yea 136

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 15

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 267.

THE CLERK:

On page 44, Calendar 267, House Bill Number 5482,

AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE CONNECTICUT CAPITOL CENTER

COMMISSION. Favorable report of the Committee on

Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Matthew Ritter, you have the  
floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I move for  
acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report  
and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

REP. RITTER (1st):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, and through you. This bill is an act reconstituting the Connecticut Capitol Center Commission and it does a couple of things, through you, Mr. Speaker.

One is it actually reconstitutes the commission which as of this day and time exists in State statute but has not met for almost seven or eight years.

The other thing it does is it changes the membership of the commission. The membership in the past, perhaps one of the reasons it did not meet for say six or seven years was probably due to the fact that it did not have perhaps enough Hartford-centric people who may have an interest in the plan and design of what's going to happen around Bushnell Park. A lot of the State buildings, including this building, the LOB, all the way down Capitol Avenue, and on Elm Street with some of the court buildings.

So we put a bill in that gets it back up and running, add some members to reflect perhaps an approach that has some municipal officials as well as

State officials and hopefully delivers a good product by next July for this body to -- to study, and works well in concerts with the I Quill and other designs and plans for the downtown Capitol area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Would you care to remark further? Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good morning, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

The bill itself does deal with the area right around here and so I would have some questions for the proponent of the bill for explanation of, a little bit further of what the bill's impact and what it's going to do. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, for the proponent of the bill, can you further define the areas that are encompassed by the bill? I'm especially concerned that the LOB, the

Capitol, the office buildings that we have along Bushnell Park, if they are part of the area bounded by the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Representative. The -- the point of this study that was done seven or eight years ago and sort of described the areas it encompasses to start off as I described to you.

You would go down Capitol Avenue, and you would stop as you sort of run out of office buildings, so to speak, of the State of Connecticut. You would incorporate Bushnell Park, you would include Elm Street and the Appellate and the Supreme Court and those areas around there, and this area around there, And really to thinking -- I believe, if you go back when the bill was originally constituted is, for a long time there's been talk about developing this area in a plan. But it's not going to be the City of Hartford that develops it alone. It's not going to be the State of Connecticut that develops it alone. So the point was to create a partnership, cooperation,

and figure out the best use of these types of buildings going forward. So that's where it would stop, and those are sort of the areas that it defines, and I suppose we'd have to come back here to incorporate more areas. But it's a pretty defined area in the statute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, over the years, one of the large discussions has been the parking area across the street from the Bushnell. It's owned, I believe by the State. It has been, I know, a subject of much discussion within the City of Hartford because so much land is being used by on-street -- not on-street parking, but level parking lots. And through you, Mr. Speaker, is this large parking area part of the area this plan would cover? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that that area is covered in this legislation, yes.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Following up, is there any current plans by either the City of Hartford or anyone else for the use of that large parking lot? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

I can't speak to any current plans and -- and hope, through you, Mr. Speaker, one of the points of this commission is to come up with something that might be useful. I would say that I think everyone who lives in the City of Hartford, who visits the City of Hartford, is very proud of the fact that we have the State Capitol, Legislative Office Building, and the buildings around it. But like any municipality, you also don't like having large surface lots in your downtown area. So to the extent there could be cooperation to find a better use for that property, it might be good for the State and the City, but that would be a conversation for the members to have.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.



REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, just -- it was mentioned earlier that there has been a planning agency, or a planning group for this area, that under the prior statute was required to report of their plans and updates to their plans, and I would like to have a further explanation as to why that commission as originally constituted didn't come up with any plans, or didn't do anything despite the fact that state statute required it, and that no one from the State responded by saying, why haven't you done your plan? And after that, I'll probably have another follow-up question regarding that commission. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it's a very good question, Representative Aman, and when I got up here and we looked at this and I asked for help in assisting in drafting the bill, the first response I got in the e-mail was, the commission exists; it's in State statute. And I said, well they haven't met in about eight years.

What happened back then, why this sort of fell

apart, I don't know, but I think what we tried to address in the statute was to add members, as I said, from the City of Hartford, including making the mayor the chair, and perhaps this involvement in the local level might help keep the commission up and running and -- and focused on the task at hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, I do think by maybe putting the City of Hartford's mayor as the chairman, hopefully the commission will actually meet and do things. I think it's one of the things that bothers me about this building, that we very often set up study groups, commissions, et cetera, and then nobody follows up to see if they're reporting like they were supposed to.

This commission, as I'm reading the -- the bill, is a planning commission, an idea commission. Through you, Mr. Speaker, can this commission do anything other than submit plans to the State or to -- for activities within this area? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, they can submit plans. Although we might have loved for them to authorize \$50 million in a bond improvement or something like that. All joking aside, that's not in there.

So the first point is to develop a plan, submit it July 1, 2012 to the (inaudible) committees which are listed in statute, GAE, Approps, and Finance, and then we'll go from there and see what the next steps would be from a -- a financial or concept idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, is there -- to do that type of planning for this area, I have seen what the costs of engineers, consultants are, et cetera. Is there anything in the bill that calls for funding or giving any money from the State to this commission for the purpose of doing their plans? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is no fiscal -- there is no fiscal note attached to the bill. The thought was that this could be handled in-house, in my conversations with the OPM Secretary and some other departments. I suppose to the extent you're talking about larger designs and plans, ambitious engineering designs or drawings, that might have to come after July 1, 2012, and we may have to revisit the issue at that time. But the understanding we have from -- from OPM is they could handle it in-house with no fiscal impact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, and a follow-up from that. Is the proponent aware of any funding from the City of Hartford or contributions of either labor, material, in-kind, et cetera from the City of Hartford that is planned for this commission? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say that I'm aware of any funding at this time. I know the City,

along with some of the organizations that are incorporated in this commission, including the Bushnell with the I Quill as we talked about, have long had an interest in what we're going to do, the Bushnell Park Foundation. It would not surprise me if the City applied competitively for a grant from one of these organizations, or asked one of its corporate partners to perhaps assist as we go forward, but at this time there's nothing in the line-item budget that I can think of, or that I'm aware of, through you, Mr. Speaker, to help offset any costs that may come moving forward. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, just again as a follow-up, the last part of the bill talks about this being a guiding document. And I guess my question was, does a guiding document have to be followed by anyone? Or what actually is a guiding document for this area? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Well, through you, Mr. Speaker, a guiding document is -- is not binding is what I would say. And since you're talking about, as we've said, you're talking about State-owned buildings, municipally-owned buildings, municipally-owned, publically-owned park, and you're talking about private development as well in businesses. This is not going to be able to be a document or report that says, all these respective organizations or governments are going to have to do what we tell them to do.

The point is to take, I think, what has long been, for the last 10, 20, 30 years we've read about plans for this area, which I think are so important to the future, not only to the City of Hartford, but the State of Connecticut, and to all those who come here every day, who visit here. To the kids in the gallery who -- who believe this is a special place, to continue that.

Not unlike Richmond, Virginia, not unlike Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Make it a source of economic development, make it a source of pride for the state of Connecticut. This is the original guide, and then we can sort of get all those ducks in a row as we move forward. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, just -- another follow-up question regarding the plans for this area. Is the commission -- we're just changing the membership, but is the goals and responsibility of the commission under the new bill any different than what was currently State law?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no. I believe they have the same goals and hopefully we'll get some accomplishments to be the distinction here. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

And so it's my understanding that the commission is not going to change its responsibilities, what it does. The change is only in the membership, and the membership is being changed to hope to put people on the commission that have a personal interest, or a

community interest in this area, and therefore will actually do the work of planning for it. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

That is correct. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

I thank the proponent for his answers to those questions, and I think that this area is -- very important to both us here in the Legislature to the citizens of Hartford and the state as a whole. So I hope that the commission will become active again, will actually submit some plans to us.

I'm very concerned that the plans could be very, very expensive and very controversial, so I urge the commission to be very realistic as to what they do when they come forward with plans for the area that we're not looking at something that will never occur. So with that in mind, I will support the bill when it comes up, and I thank Representative for his answers.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:



Would you remark further on the bill?

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In listening to the colloquy between the proponent of the bill and the ranking member of Planning and Development prompted me to wonder about this since the commission has existed for a while. So if I could, just a couple of quick questions.

Does the proponent know for how long the commission has existed? Since -- not just since it stopped having meetings five or seven years ago, but what the -- the original date of its creation was or how long it's been around. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd have to give a ballpark. I believe the commission was constituted in 2001 or 2002. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

And did the commission ever really do anything?

Were there ever any reports or proposals that came out of the commission from the beginning, which I guess now would be about 10 years since it was created?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, you get different answers when you ask different people, I think. And what I asked, there was some conversation, there was a draft report submitted. But I would say that most people that I spoke to in putting this bill together felt that whatever the initial charge and task of this commission was, was not fulfilled. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

And in looking at reconstituting this commission, was there ever any investigation of Capitol city downtown areas in the vicinity of the Capitol of cities such as, say, Boston or Providence which stand in fairly stark contrast to the situation in -- in Hartford when you go and visit those cities. Through

lxe/law/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

61  
May 18, 2011

you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, trying to get a better understanding of the questions. Was there, I guess, was there any look at what Boston and Providence have done in similar situations? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Is there a planning commission like this, or some kind of an agency that's responsible for the -- the sort of Capitol section of the city of say Boston or of Providence? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I can't speak to Boston and Providence. What I can speak to is, in doing my own research, is Pennsylvania and Virginia. I talked about Richmond and Harrisburg with the ranking member earlier. Those are municipalities that were guides

where the states sort of took a proactive approach to working with the host community and the host city to think about how to repair the areas around their Capitol for historic purposes. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because, you know, one - - if you -- it's not that far away and it's the -- the other major state in New England. When you go to visit Boston, the difference, even in the Capitol region in terms of the atmosphere and the sense of vitality and the sense of -- of activity that permeates that city compared with Hartford, it's -- it's really -- astounding difference. I certainly hope that this commission is able to contribute something towards closing the gap between the two, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you.

Representatives, would you care to remark further on the bill? Care to remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the

lxe/law/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

63  
May 18, 2011

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. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call.

.SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call board to make sure your votes have been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Hold on, we still have some people who need to vote. Watch your step there, Representative. The machine will be -- who's there? Representative Dillon.

All in and all done? The machine will be locked.

Clerk, please take a tally.

Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5482.

Total Number voting	138
Necessary for passage	70
Those voting Yea	138
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	13

lxe/law/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

64  
May 18, 2011

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Bill is passed.

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Any announcements or introductions? Representative  
Mary Fritz.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good afternoon, madam.

REP. FRITZ (90th):

On -- in the well of the House on the far side,  
just to the left of the board, we have visitors today  
from the -- the YMCA. We have a former State  
Representative, Morag Vance from Trumbull, who is --  
who helps them do all of their little things with  
regard to laws and understanding what's going on up  
here.

We have Charlie Clifford from the Milford Y.  
Charlie wave. Where are you?

And also we have Sean Doherty from the  
Wallingford YMCA. I hope our people will give them a  
warm welcome for all the good things that they do.

A VOICE:

And welcome.

**S - 632**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL. 54  
PART 21  
6546-6914**

mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

502  
June 7, 2011

Continuing on that page, Calendar 534, House  
Bill Number 6352.

Madam President, move to place this item on the  
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Calendar 536, House Bill Number 5300.

Move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

A final item on calendar page 17, Calendar 537,  
House Bill Number 5482.

Move to place this item on the Consent  
calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.



mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

520  
June 7, 2011

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed...

THE CHAIR:

I would ask the Chamber to be quiet please so we can hear the call of the Calendar for the Consent Calendar.

Thank you.

Please proceed, Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on calendar page 5, Calendar 336, House Bill 5697.

Calendar page 7, Calendar 421, Substitute for House Bill 6126.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 449, Senate Bill 1149.

mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

521  
June 7, 2011

Calendar page 10, Calendar 470, Substitute for House Bill 5340. Calendar 474, Substitute for House Bill 6274. Calendar 476, House Bill 6635.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 499, Substitute for House Bill 6638. Calendar 500, House Bill 6614. Calendar 508, House Bill 6222.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 511, House Bill 6356. Calendar 512, Substitute for House Bill 6422. Calendar 514, House Bill 6590. Calendar 515, House Bill 6221. Calendar 516, House Bill 6455.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 517, House Bill 6350. Calendar 519, House Bill 5437. Calendar 522, House Bill 6303.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 523, Substitute for House Bill 6499. Calendar 524, House Bill 6490. Calendar 525, House Bill 5780. Calendar 526, House Bill 6513. Calendar 527, Substitute for House Bill 6532.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 528, House Bill 6561. Calendar 529, Substitute for House Bill 6312. Calendar 530, Substitute for House Bill 5032. Calendar 532, House Bill 6338.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, Substitute for House Bill 6325. Calendar 534, House Bill 6352.

mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

522  
June 7, 2011

Calendar 536, House Bill 5300. Calendar 537, House  
Bill 5482.

calendar page 18, Calendar 543, House Bill 6508.

Calendar 544, House Bill 6412. Calendar 546,  
Substitute for House Bill 6538. Calendar 547,  
Substitute for House Bill 6440. Calendar 548,  
Substitute for House Bill 6471.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 550, Substitute for  
House Bill 5802. Calendar 551, House Bill 6433.  
Calendar 552, House Bill 6413. Calendar 553,  
Substitute for House Bill 6227.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 554, Substitute for  
House Bill 5415. Calendar 557, Substitute for House  
Bill 6318. Calendar 558, Substitute for House Bill  
6565.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 559, Substitute for  
House Bill 6636.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 563, Substitute for  
House Bill 6600. Calendar 564, Substitute for House  
Bill 6598. Calendar 566, House Bill 5585.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 568, Substitute for  
House Bill 6103. Calendar 570, Substitute for House  
Bill 6336. Calendar 573, Substitute for House Bill  
6434.

mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

523  
June 7, 2011

Calendar page 24, Calendar 577, Substitute for  
House Bill 5795.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 581, House Bill  
6354.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 596, Substitute for  
House Bill 6282. Calendar 598, Substitute for House  
Bill 6629.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 600, House Bill  
6314. Calendar 601, Substitute for House Bill 6529.  
Calendar 602, Substitute for House Bill 6438.  
Calendar 604, Substitute for House Bill 6639.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 605, Substitute for  
House Bill 6526. Calendar 608, House Bill 6284.

Calendar page 30, Calendar number 615,  
Substitute for House Bill 6485. Calendar 616,  
Substitute for House Bill 6498.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 619, Substitute for  
House Bill 6634. Calendar 627, Substitute for House  
Bill 6596.

Calendar page 32, Calendar 629, House Bill  
5634. Calendar 630, Substitute for House Bill 6631.  
Calendar 631, Substitute for House Bill 6357.  
Calendar 632, House Bill 6642.

mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

524  
June 7, 2011

Calendar page 33, Calendar 634, Substitute for  
House Bill 5431. Calendar 636, Substitute for  
House, correction, House Bill 6100.

Page 34, Calendar 638, Substitute for House  
Bill 6525.

Calendar page 48, Calendar 399, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1043.

Calendar page 49, Calendar 409, Substitute for  
House Bill 6233. Calendar 412, House Bill 5178.  
Calendar 422, Substitute for House Bill 6448.

Calendar page 52, Calendar 521, Substitute for  
House Bill 6113.

Madam President, that completes the item placed  
on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

We call for another roll call vote. And the  
machine will be open for Consent Calendar number 1.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll on the Consent  
Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the  
Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll on the  
Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.

mhr/cd/gbr  
SENATE

525  
June 7, 2011

Senator Cassano, would you vote, please, sir.

Thank you.

Well, all members have voted. All members have voted. The machine will be closed, and Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally?

THE CLERK:

Motion is on option Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

We might stand at ease for just a moment as we prepare the next item..

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)