

PA12-119

SB0234

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

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PART 25
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mr/ch/rgd/gdm/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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further on the bill?

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask that this be put on the consent calendar.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to place this item on the consent calendar.

Any objection?

Hearing none, the item is placed on the consent calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 499.

THE CLERK:

On page 25, Calendar 499, substitute for Senate Bill Number 234, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS, favorable report by the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Bruce Morris, you have the floor, sir.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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The question is on acceptance and passage in concurrence with the Senate.

Will you remark?

REP. MORRIS (140th):

This bill establishes a community choices program to assist the elderly. It changes the eligibility requirements for the Katie Beckett waiver and it repeals absolute -- obsolete human services statutes.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 4405. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4405, previously designated Senate "A?"

THE CLERK:

LCO 4405, Senate "A," offered by Representatives Tercyak, Morris and Gibbons.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Is there objection to summarization?

Hearing none, Representative, you may proceed.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Mr. Speaker, Senate amendment "A" repeals the provision regarding DSS rate determinations for FQHCs. I move adoption.

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on adoption.

Remark further? Will you remark further?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor of the amendment, please signify
by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Remark further on the bill as amended? Remark
further?

Representative Morris.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Mr. Speaker, move that the bill is placed on the
consent calendar.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to place this item on the consent
calendar.

Any objection? Any objection?

Hearing none, the item is placed on the consent
calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 500.

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calendar.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm about to call the items again that are on the consent calendar, but I would like to alert the Clerk to two bills that we will be taking off the consent calendar. They are Calendars 380, and Calendars 431. Those are Calendars 380 and Calendar 431.

HB5333
SB130

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 204.

THE CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 204, Substitute for House Bill Number 530, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD IN CONTROL OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, favorable report by the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With that, let me -- I was looking to just list the calendar numbers again that we are planning to put on the consent calendar before I move them. I'll be doing this

in numerical order by calendar number.

They are Calendar Number 71, Calendar 204, Calendar 205, Calendar 287, Calendar 292, Calendar 330, Calendar 402, Calendar 407, Calendar 412, Calendar 417, Calendar 425, Calendar 426, Calendar 442, Calendar 458, Calendar 460.

Calendar 463, Calendar 492, Calendar 495, Calendar 499, Calendar 500, Calendar 501, Calendar 506, Calendar 507, Calendar 508, Calendar 512, Calendar 515, Calendar 516, Calendar 530, Calendar 538 and Calendar 545.

And I'd also like to add to that -- I'm sorry. I omitted one which is Calendar 275.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before us is passage of the bills on today's consent calendar.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call.
Members to the Chamber. The House is voting the consent calendar by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

HB5025
HB5368
HB5326
HB5539
HB5146
SB328
HB5534
HB5555
SB157
SB232
SB339
SB340
SB41
SB98
SB116
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SB383
SB384
SB29
SB354
HB5327
SB254

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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

Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

If all the members have voted the machine will be locked. The Clerk will please take a tally.

The Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number Voting 150

Necessary for Adoption 76

Those Voting Yea 150

Those Voting Nay 0

Those Absent and Not Voting 1

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The consent calendar passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 443.

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 443, Senate Bill Number 60, AN ACT PROHIBITING PRICE GOUGING DURING SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS, favorable report by the Committee on the Judiciary.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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codifies that goal and provides some standardization.

It also supports Connecticut's rebalancing plan by providing consistent information about the broad range of community, long term care options available. And this system enhances the state's nursing home diversion efforts. Community care in lieu of nursing home care is preferable and less costly.

And finally, a single point of entry integrated system is consistent with federal priorities and provides Connecticut with the opportunity to apply for the balancing incentive payment program, which requires a statewide single point of entry system, a universal assessment or level of care screening tool, which is in the Governor's budget, and conflict free case management, which also exists here in the State of Connecticut through access agencies.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and urge your support on this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you. Are there any mem -- questions from members of the committee?

SHERRY OSTROUT: Thank you so much.

SENATOR MUSTO: Well, thank you very much.

Commissioner Bremby, welcome.

COMMISSIONER ROD BREMBY: Good afternoon, Senator Musto and Representative Tercyak, distinguished members of the committee. I am Rod Bremby, Commissioner of DSS. I'm here to offer testimony on a number of bills this afternoon.

I, too, am a person. And I have brought a significant number of my leadership team so it

SB229
SB233
SB236
HB5280
HB5281
HB5285

SB30
SB230
SB231
SB232
SB235
HB5282
SB234
HB5283
HB5284
SB208
SB209

transitioning. The target population of this waiver is children with physical disabilities who may or may not have a co-occurring disability -- developmental disability.

Senate Bill 232 extends the moratorium on nursing home beds from 2012 to 2016. We believe this represents a technical fix because the current budget does not include funding for bed expansions in nursing facilities. This moratorium is consistent with the department's right sizing initiative. And we believe that it's necessary to enhance the strategic plan for the appropriate number and placement of nursing home beds within our state system.

Senate Bill 234 is a repealer. It's a technical bill which seeks to eliminate some statutes that are no longer necessary. 17b-221a is a financial management mechanism that is no longer being utilized. 17b-342a establishes that PCA pilot. It no longer is in existence so we're wanting to eliminate that as well.

Senate Bill 235 is an ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AGENTS FOR THE ELDERLY. Currently under state law we require that municipalities designate an individual. We don't provide funding for that. It is, in effect, an unfunded mandate. We're wanting to remove that requirement so that they can identify any other person on staff that they currently have to serve as this agent. So we believe that that -- this keeps -- we believe it's recognized as a fiscal realities of our times. It ensures that we have a connection with the municipalities but we're not requiring them to do something that we're not offering funding to support.

House Bill 5250 -- 5282. This bill is already moving forward. We want to thank the committee for its -- for its diligence in moving it forward in an expeditious manner. We

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Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR MAYNARD:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

Excuse me a minute, Mr. Clerk.

Can you wait one second?

Do you have a point (inaudible). Okay.

Please proceed.

Oh, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would call next calendar page 24, Calendar 183, and then calendar page 26, Calendar 275.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 24, Calendar 183, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 234, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS, favorable report of the Committee on Human Services, Planning and Development, Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto, good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

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Good afternoon, Madam President. How are you?

THE CHAIR:

Good. And yourself?

SENATOR MUSTO:

I am just fine.

THE CHAIR:

Great.

SENATOR MUSTO:

I was just involved in a heated conversation about another bill, so it's going to take me, I think, a second to get to this one. But, generally, what I can tell the circle for the moment is that this is the DSS bill for the year. It does various things that the agency thinks are good ideas and the committee has agreed with that.

There is an amendment on the bill. And if you'll permit me, it is a strike-all amendment. It has been signed onto by the committee chairman, vice chairman and ranking members. And, if I may, I would ask the Clerk to call LCO 4421?

And before I do that, though, Madam Chair, I forgot to ask for the adoption of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption of the bill. And I guess you have already proceeded, so I think now we will ask the Clerk.

Senator Musto, can you stand at ease? Right now, there is not a copy of it.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Certainly.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Musto, that is LCO 4421?

SENATOR MUSTO:

That's correct.

THE CHAIR:

We have -- it's not in our possession right now.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, madam President, we might pass that item temporarily.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 275, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 391, AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS BY VETERANS TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, favorable report of the Committee on Humans Services and Appropriations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move adoption of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption and passage.

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Will you remark, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes, Madam President.

We had this bill earlier in the session and it was sent to the Appropriations Committee due to a question about the fiscal note. It is back from the Appropriations Committee having cleared that committee unanimously. So we have already discussed it.

I'm happy to answer any questions about it, but what this bill essentially does is permits -- excuse me, it gives our veterans the ability, if they are getting assistance from the federal government, the VA, or other veterans' programs, to exclude that assistance when applying for public service assistance from the State of Connecticut.

I think it's a benefit to our veterans. The fiscal note is very small. As I say, it passed out of appropriations unanimously. And I would ask for approval from the circle.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Seeing none, Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

If there's no objection, I would ask this item be placed on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk might recall Calendar

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24 -- calendar page 24, Calendar 183, Senate Bill 234.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 24, Calendar 183, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 234, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS, favorable report of the Committees on Human Services, Planning and Development, Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

Back to this one, I would, again, move adoption of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

That has been done, sir.

Would you like to now recall that amendment?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Certainly. The amendment --

THE CHAIR:

Hold on a minute.

SENATOR MUSTO:

I would like to, actually, Madam Clerk -- Madam President, if I may?

THE CHAIR:

Please.

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SENATOR MUSTO:

This is not a strike-all amendment. It does change certain things in the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Sir, Senator, I'm not sure we have the amendment yet.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Oh, I'm sorry.

Well, the amendment I would call then is LCO 4405.

THE CHAIR:

4405.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes. I mistakenly called a different number last time, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Okay.

Okay. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4405, Senate "A," offered by Senators Musto, Fasano, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Now please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Madam President.

What the amendment does, is --

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You want to move for adoption, sir?

SENATOR MUSTO:

I would love to.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you.

I'm going to move for adoption and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you.

What the amendment does is makes a minor change in Line 52. It essentially takes out some language that gave some folks some pause that this would result in a mandate on our towns.

And it also deletes Section 9, which gave us some problems from the retirement perspective that people would be included in the retirement plan who were not eligible, basically. That's what the amendment does. And I would just ask for the circle's approval.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Seeing none, all in favor of the amendment please say aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

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Opposed?

Amendment passes.

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you.

Onto the bill as amended. Again, this is the DSS bill. It does various things. It establishes a community choices program to assist elderly people who have -- and people who have disabilities. There's a federal benefit to that and we have to do it statewide, so we're going to do it in this bill, hopefully.

It changes some eligibility requirements for the so-called "Katie Beckett Waiver" that allow people who are young and have some serious disabilities to qualify for federal funding under Medicaid.

It requires municipalities -- actually, we changed this. It leaves under current law municipal agent law for municipalities for the elderly to allow municipal agents for the elderly in each town, but it removes the requirement that those municipalities have to appoint, or designate rather, an individual with no other jobs.

Very often, these jobs are being held by the director of the senior center, for example, or someone in the health district. So now, the law would allow that legally, whereas, it's been the practice for some time in some towns.

It directs DSS to pay certain third-party beneficiary payments that would otherwise have been dispersed to policy holders. When the insured is indebted to the department we can get those to DSS directly. And it permits the Bureau of Rehabilitative Service -- actually I'm sorry. We struck that last part out.

That's essentially the bill. And again, I would ask for the circle's approval of this bill.

Thank you, Madam President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Seeing none, Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Then again, I would ask that this item be placed on consent without objection.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Thank you.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, for purposes of a couple of additional markings. One item would like to mark to mark as passed temporarily for potential action later today, and that is an item, calendar page 23, Calendar 165, Senate Bill 206. That should be marked passed temporarily.

And then, Madam President, if we might return to an item passed temporarily earlier, calendar page 3, Calendar 180, Senate Bill 89.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 23, Calendar 165 -- oops.

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House Bill 5123; on page 15, Calendar 401, House Bill 5516; on page 19, Calendar 421, House Bill 5107.

On page 21, Calendar 59, Senate Bill Number 97; also on page 21, Calendar 90, Senate Bill 188; on page 21, again, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 63; page 21, Calendar 73, Senate Bill 195; on page 22, Calendar 104, Senate Bill 207; on page 24, Calendar 197, Senate Bill Number 315; also on page 24, Calendar 183, Senate Bill 234.

Page 25, Calendar 208, Senate Bill 347; on page 25, Calendar 233, Senate Bill 371; on page 26, Calendar 275, Senate Bill 391; on page 27, Calendar 288, Senate Bill 299; on page 27, Calendar 292, Senate Bill 156; and on page 28, Calendar 333, Senate Bill Number 426.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Mr. Clerk, would you please call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted -- all members voted. The machine will be closed. And Mr. Clerk, will you call this great tally?

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

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 passed.