

**PA12-154**

SB0383

Higher Education	1055-1059, 1085	6
House	8274-8277, 8288-8290	7
<u>Senate</u>	<u>2652-2666, 2953</u>	<u>16</u>

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT  
PART 3  
736 - 1104**

**2012**

after their initial student teaching experience in their junior or senior year, it also -- student teaching at an earlier time also gives a student some perspective to apply their studies from the classroom towards.

LINETTE BRANHAM: Absolutely.

REP. LEGEYT: And so I just wanted to comment that I really appreciate those remarks because they -- they -- they find their way into my heart real easily. Thank you.

LINETTE BRANHAM: Thank you. I think that once you're a classroom teacher, you never forget what it's like. That's good to hear.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you so much for coming before us today. Appreciate it.

LINETTE BRANHAM: Thank you very much for your time.

SENATOR BYE: Sure.

Next is Susan Palisano from Connecticut Center for Advance Technology, followed by Maggie Adair, follows by -- followed by Paige Bray.

SUSAN PALISANO: Good afternoon, Senator Bye, Representative Willis, members of the committee. My name is Susan Palisano. I'm director of education and training at CCAT, the Connecticut Center for Advance Technology.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this afternoon in support for Raised Bill Number 383, AN ACT CONCERNING MANUFACTURING INTERNSHIPS.

As part of its K through twelve programming to help to develop a future skilled workforce pipeline, CCAT is leading Connecticut Dream It Do It, which is the state implementation of the National Association of Manufacturers and Manufacturing Institute's outreach and awareness initiative that works to inform young people about educational and career pathways in today's manufacturing.

While we're pleased to support passage of this bill, which actually addresses an issue recently raised by our steering committee members regarding various internships for students under the age of 18, we do have several comments regarding continued potential limitations on manufacturing internships for all people -- young people who want to pursue these opportunities.

Firstly, we're concerned that the bill's current language may not guarantee that students under the age of 18, from any and all educational settings, will be considered eligible for manufacturing internships.

I draw your attention to the continued use of the phrase "bona fide apprenticeship courses," without a specific definition of who or what determines that this requirement has actually been met.

Additionally, we question whether there are scenarios that may exist where an internship does not necessarily qualify as employment and, therefore, would not be subject to the age restriction waiver. For example, after school or summer placements that are not part of an apprenticeship or a vocational technical or credit-bearing program.

And lastly, we want to be sure that there's an understanding that by adding specific language defining when youth under the age of 18 are allowed on manufacturing shop floors, we don't inadvertently eliminate some of the noninternship opportunities that are currently enjoyed by younger students, such as site visits or job shadowing.

I've also introduced written testimony. I won't take any more of your time. I would encourage the committee to review that document. And thank you in advance for consideration of potential modifications to the language of the bill, and especially for your efforts to insure that all young men and women are given a chance to participate in meaningful experiences that will hopefully lead to rewarding careers in manufacturing.

Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you very much, Susan, and thank you to CCAT for their work on the Dream It Do It, trying to encourage young people to go into manufacturing to these really good paying jobs that have a career path. So, certainly, your organization has helped me understand how important that is.

We want to make sure that we get the language right and don't preclude -- I know that one of the things I've heard since we introduced this bill is that there are field trips, you know, that say a vocational technical school may want to show students what a manufacturing plant looks like when it's in operation. And as I understand it, the current law makes that difficult. So we want to make sure that we cover all of those things.

Is there anything else that you see in the bill that we can add or ideas you have to make sure that those things are covered?

SUSAN PALISANO: Well, that's -- that's my concern as well. The new language that was added specifically refers to employment. And in terms of waving the age restriction for students under the age of 18 and now changing it to 16, I think there are two consequences.

One is that by defining that as -- as an employment opportunity, it -- it exactly -- potentially eliminates those upper -- or does not create those opportunities that you just referred to that will allow groups of students who are 16, or perhaps even younger than 16, to enter a manufacturing facility, to be on the machine shop floor, not necessarily in a hands-on environment but as a -- as a chance to see what's going on.

And, secondly, the, you know, the same issue that I raised a moment ago and that -- that is that we bring even younger students as part of our -- our summer programming that we've been engaged in for four years now. Our young manufacturers summer academy we actually have rising seventh, eighth and ninth grade students that we bring to manufacturing facilities for that very same purpose. And, again, inadvertently, if we are now saying these are the situations in which a student under the age of 18 can be on a machine shop floor, we don't want that misinterpreted by manufacturers to say that we're not going to allow any other scenarios. Or worse, for their insurance companies to interpret this in a way that -- that there is now liability that they may not have thought they had before.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you very much for those warnings, and -- and we will look carefully. One thing that I'll ask you to do, if you don't mind, is I think there -- how many other states have a Dream It Do It?

SUSAN PALISANO: Twenty-six other states, some states have two areas, so up to, at last count, over 30 initiatives across the country.

SENATOR BYE: Okay. What might be helpful -- because having been at the meeting when the manufactures themselves were saying we really need to be able to give kids more opportunities, I'm hoping that, given the structure of these committees around the country, maybe there is some language that some of these Dream It Do It groups have worked on with the Legislature to meet that demand, and we'll also ask you to look at it, so that we're sure that we're accomplishing our goal and not hurting access to these pre-employment opportunities. So thank you so much --

SUSAN PALISANO: Very good.

SENATOR BYE: -- for your testimony.

SUSAN PALISANO: We actually have -- I'll be in Washington in three weeks for an education council meeting and I will bring that to the group and ask them to provide me with whatever input they can.

SENATOR BYE: That would be awesome.

Other questions?

Thank you very much for being here today.

line 25 page 5

Testimony by Susan Palisano  
Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.  
Before the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement  
March 12, 2012

**Testimony for Raised Bill 383: An Act Concerning Manufacturing Internship**

Good afternoon, Senator Bye, Representative Willis and members of the Committee. My name is Susan Palisano and I am Director of Education & Training at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) in East Hartford. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Raised Bill 383, An Act Concerning Manufacturing Internships.

Through both its own K-12 educational programming, and as the lead organization for "Connecticut. Dream It. Do It." - the state implementation of the National Association of Manufacturers/Manufacturing Institute's outreach and engagement initiative - CCAT has been a diligent participant in opportunities that introduce youth to careers in manufacturing and develop the future skilled workforce pipeline. We are pleased to support the passage of this bill, which addresses an issue recently raised by "Dream It. Do It." Steering Committee members regarding barriers to internships for students under the age of 18.

We appreciate the fact that this bill contains language providing assurances that any young person permitted to work on a machine shop floor has gained the necessary skills through approved training programs to make their experience both safe and rewarding. However, we do have several comments regarding continued potential limitations on manufacturing internships for all young people who wish to pursue these opportunities for the Committee to consider.

We are concerned that the bill does not make appropriate accommodations for students under the age of 18 from any and all educational settings to be considered eligible for manufacturing internships. For instance, we draw the Committee's attention to the continued use of the phrase "bona fide apprenticeship courses" without a specific definition of who or what determines that this requirement has been met. Additionally, we question whether there are scenarios that exist where an internship placement does not qualify as "employment" and therefore would not be subject to the age restriction waiver. Of particular note are after-school or summer placements that are not part of an apprenticeship, vocational-technical, or credit-bearing program.

Finally, we would like assurances that by adding new language defining specific instances in which youth under the age of 18 are allowed to be present on manufacturing shop floors, we do not eliminate those non-internship opportunities currently enjoyed by younger students such as site visits and job shadowing.

On behalf of CCAT and its "Dream It. Do It." partners, thank you very much for your consideration of these potential modifications to Raised Bill #383, to guarantee that all of Connecticut's young men and women are able to participate in meaningful opportunities leading to rewarding careers in manufacturing.



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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

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8215 - 8555**

mr/ch/rgd/gdm/gbr  
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calendar.

Any objection?

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

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 515.

THE CLERK:

On page 27, Calendar 515, Senate Bill Number 383, AN ACT CONCERNING MANUFACTURING INTERNSHIPS, favorable report by the Committee on Labor.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Roberta Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Speaker Christopher Donovan, good evening.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

I won't get to see that many times.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Keep trying.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for 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. WILLIS (64th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

This allows 16 and 17 year olds to participate in apprenticeship programs and manufacturing companies, vocational schools and public schools. This would also include work-study programs.

Connecticut needs to meet the employment needs for manufacturing. This bill will give young adults an opportunity to gain hands-on learning and job training in areas where there are employment opportunities in well-paid fields.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 4732. I move that the reading of the amendment be waived and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Clerk please call LCO 4732, previously designated Senate a.

THE CLERK:

LCO 4732, Senate "A," offered by Senator bye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Any objection to summarization?

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Hearing none, Representative Willis, you may proceed.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you, sir.

This amendment allows minors to participate in mechanical internships at manufacturing companies. It also defines internships.

I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on adoption.

Remark further? Remark further?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Mr. Speaker, if there's no objection, I request that we move this item and it be placed on the consent calendar.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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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 Number 516.

THE CLERK:

On page 28, Calendar 516, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 384, AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION, favorable report by the Committee on Education.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Roberta Willis, you have the floor, madam.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

It's been such a long time, sir.

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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

Will you remark?

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Yes, sir.

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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  
SB196  
SB97  
SB188  
SB234  
SB237  
SB299  
SB347  
SB371  
SB391  
SB345  
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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THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Under Matters Returned From Committee, a bill from the Higher Education Committee, Calendar Page 26, Calendar 202, Senate Bill 383. If that item might be marked go.

In addition, Mr. President, some matters from the Judiciary Committee. First, under Favorable Reports, Calendar Page 6, Calendar 315, Senate Bill 367.

And under Matters Returned From Committee, Calendar Page 29, Calendar 352, Senate Bill 353.

And also, Mr. President, under Matters Returned, Judiciary Committee item Calendar Page 30, Calendar 381, Senate Bill 419.

Also, Mr. President, I might also mark, under Favorable Reports, Calendar Page 1, Calendar 106, Senate Bill 316 from the Committee on General Law.

And also, Mr. President, under Matters Returned, the matter from the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, Calendar Page 25, Calendar 165, Senate Bill 206.

And also, Mr. President, the matter from the Planning and Development Committee under Matters Returned, Calendar Page 27, Calendar 280, Senate Bill 345.

If we might mark those items as go, Mr. President, and begin to call them in that sequence.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 26, Calendar Number 202, Senate Bill Number 383 AN ACT CONCERNING MANUFACTURING INTERNSHIPS.  
Favorable Reports from the Committee on Higher Education and the Committee on Labor and Public

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Employees.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President. The Clerk is in possession of LCO 4732. I ask that I be granted leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call LCO 4732.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4732, Senate Amendment "A".

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment simply defines clearly what an internship is for purposes of these sorts of internships. We wanted to be clear to

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be sure that we are protecting the safety of the students who might be in that position, so the broader bill is to encourage more young people to have manufacturing internships, but that describes the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment? Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President, or Mr. President. As I read the amendment, I guess I'm a little bit clear as to the safety aspect that it's trying to get at.

If I could, through you, Mr. President, it looks like what we're doing is defining internship to mean a high school student or recent high school graduate, if I may, through you, how does that get at the safety aspect that you referred to? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE;

Through you, Mr. President, this bill is really targeted trying to allow people younger than 18 to do an internship in a manufacturing plant.

And the part that gets at the safety are lines 5 to 7 where there's a curriculum and workplace standards that are approved by the Department of Education and the Labor Department.

This is something, in talking to my Workforce Development Board, that these two agencies are working on, right now, to come up with clear standards and to try to make it easier for students to move through this process. Through you, Mr. President.

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Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

I thank you for the answer. And then, through you, Mr. President, are those standards then workplace standards and curriculum, are they a part of what the high school has as a responsibility to teach and implement or is that for the actual employer? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, however it is designed, so it could be designed by the high school. It could be designed by the student, however it's designed, it has to be approved by the State Department of Ed and the Department of Labor.

According to the Department of Labor there's some work places that might not meet the standard even if the curriculum did, so that's why we've used both agencies.

If Senator Welch looked through, there are a series of amendments where we've tried to work this out in a way that our State Department of Education and our Department of Labor would be comfortable both about the educational and the safety aspects and that's why, in this latest amendment, we've named them both. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank Senator Bye for that answer.

I guess this is a great concept. One question I have

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that gives rise from the language in the amendment is the just unique reference to high school, and I want to make sure that we're not going to be excluding people who say, go to a technical school or somebody who might be working on a GED or something like that.

But the high school and then a recent high school graduate gives me cause for concern that we might be excluding some people. Is that the intent of this bill? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, that is really an excellent question, and if you look at the underlying bill, the vocational technical schools already are able to do this.

What we found when we talked to manufacturers and to the Department of Labor and working with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology talking to folks who also work doing support for manufacturers is, there was a clear disallowable to allow students into manufacturing settings for internships unless they were in those very specific programs, which is a very narrow pipeline.

So what this bill, the underlying bill is doing, is expanding the allowable internships to all high school students as long as sort of workplace safety and curriculum needs are met. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the answer, Senator Bye. Those are all the questions I have on the amendment. Thank you.

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Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Good afternoon, Mr. President. Mr. President, I rise to support this amendment and the underlying bill. I think the amendment, by including mechanical as well as manufacturing internships we're broadening the intent of the bill and also the opportunities.

There is no question that in this economic time, that we are concerned about jobs and having a pipeline to our businesses in Connecticut, and as we have traveled around the state during these last two year biennial budget meetings and meet with small businesses and larger ones throughout the State of Connecticut, one of the big messages beyond having government not interfere as much in their businesses, the second most compelling message from all of them was that we do not have enough skilled labor for them to fill the actual openings they have.

In other words, here we are looking for jobs and there are many, many openings that cannot be filled because we don't have the pipeline of skilled workers, particularly in these fields, in manufacturing, and also the mechanical fields as well.

So the hope is that this will spur an interest and develop young people so that they will seek out those type of programs and attain the kind of skills so that they cannot only get an education in Connecticut, but ultimately also fill the jobs in Connecticut that we so desperately need, and one of the reasons to keep businesses here, because of our excellent workforce.

I think this is a wonderful, wonderful bill. We should all be supporting it highly and again, I commend the Chair of the Higher Education Committee who worked so hard and diligently to make sure that all interests and concerns are addressed so that we can have this kind of very successful couple days Sessions with the Higher Education Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, I will try your minds. All in favor signify by saying Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted. Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE;

Thank you, Mr. President. I was able to describe the bill a bit because of Senator Welch's questions and my Ranking Member also helped describe it.

What this bill is in response to is ongoing concerns from manufacturers that they do not have a pipeline of students who are interested in manufacturing, that both parents' and students' perceptions of manufacturing are from the 50s, and right now these are both interesting and exciting jobs and that if the students could just get out and see what's going on in our manufacturers, that we would have more interest, and also it could help their parents understand.

So I think this is a really good bill and I want to thank the Center for Advanced Technology and the Dream I Do It Group, particularly who we meet regularly about the future workforce of manufacturing over in East Hartford because they pointed out this problem, that it was impossible for most high school students to get into manufacturing plants because of some of the rules in our, in some of our statutes.

So I'm really pleased to stand here with this bill before you and I urge the Chamber's adoption of the bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:



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Thank you, Senator. Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'm very encouraged by the work that's been done on this bill by Senator Bye and her Committee and I personally experienced working in a manufacturing environment in the high school, but I do recall back in those days that there was a problem for me as someone under 18 years of age to get too close to the manufacturing environment.

In fact, in the printing plant that I worked in, I was not allowed on the printing floor, so to speak, because of the machinery.

Through you, Mr. President, a question to Senator Bye, does this bill in any way address the liability concerns of manufacturers with children under age in the manufacturing environment? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, no. This bill is targeted at allowing students into the manufacturing plants. It would be up to the manufacturers to figure out if they wanted to carry insurance or decide if they wanted to take on the students as a liability, but the, I probably talked to 15 manufacturers and of those, probably 7 of them about this issue and they're eager, because they love what they do. They love their jobs. They're eager to have young children in their plants and around innovation and around, you know, some of the systems that they develop that really build pretty cool intellectual skills around how to be efficient.

So no, they have not talked to, this does not talk to that issue. Through you, Mr. President.

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Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Bye. I agree with your enthusiasm on this. I think it's an appropriate thing for us to focus on.

My only concern was, are we not enabling for manufacturers the vehicle that's necessary to make it easier for them to deal with the liability issue. Now, that may have been dealt with elsewhere in State Statute that I'm unaware of, but it's always been my understanding that it's been sort of a do not pass rule for children in the manufacturing environment.

So, that might be food for thought now that you're trying to create a new channel for young people to engage in the manufacturing environment by way of internship, it seems to me that it's something we're going to have to address in the not too distant future. Thank you, Mr. President,

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President. In our experiences over the last three, four years, every other year, if not every year, going around and talking to employers, particularly in manufacturing, that is surprising to all of us. We all come back here and swap notes and talk about our experiences is the observation that the workforce in Connecticut is misaligned with what the opportunities are.

And you have to scratch your head and say, why is that the case? How could it be? But this bill, and Senator Bye, a great job on this. I know you put a lot of time in this and you are very passionate about it, this is something that addresses that very issue and it solves a lot of problems.

It not only starts to align the workforce with what the opportunities are, what it does, it gets younger

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people involved and interested and enthusiastic and passionate about what everybody says is a dying concept here in Connecticut.

But manufacturing is what put us on the map for well over 100 years, 150 years in fact, and it served this state magnificently and it's not over. There is definitely potential for manufacturing to come back, and this is a big step, I think, in the right direction of aligning the workforce with the opportunities in manufacturing.

If you look abroad at some of the great examples that exist today and going back 75 or 100 years, look to Germany. They have an apprentice program that is cutting edge, always has been, always will be until Connecticut catches up as a result of efforts like this one here, look at how they are doing as compared to the rest of the world. They are the only large scale manufacturing country in the world today that are making the highest quality products that you can find on the market, whether it's automobiles or whatever. Pick anything. Jet engines, aircraft themselves, it's the Germans.

Even compared to some of the Pacific rim countries and China itself, Germany, you can't hold a candle to. And I have to believe it's because they've had this century old if not longer, apprenticeship program with younger people, which this does the exact same thing. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Mr. President, this is an important bill. As the

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proponent of the bill explained, there have been difficulties in the past with trying to get young people into manufacturing facilities and the laws perhaps are being unclear in terms of allowing them to go in and get these important, very, very important experiences.

And I tend to shy away from giving personal experiences because I think sometimes they may or may not be relevant.

But just the other day we formed a manufacturing caucus. Many of the members of this circle were there. Some members weren't there who wanted to be there. And ultimately, I think many of us will belong to that, as also many members of the House.

And for me, that goes back to, the reason for my interest in manufacturing is, there's data that's out there about the ability of manufacturing to create wealth and to help with our tax base, to provide good jobs, the multiplier effect. So there's all kinds of good reasons that I believe in manufacturing.

But one of the principal reasons I believe in this is, I understand it. As I had the ability when I was a young man to work in a factory for three or four summers, four summers, and I had a chance to see things being manufactured.

I mean, less and less, fewer and fewer of our young people have that chance to see the process of something being made. This is an important, important thing, and I think it affected me for the rest of my life in terms of understanding, adding value, taking some different component parts, taking some pieces of different things, and this case chemicals where I worked, and putting them together and coming out with a product that now had a lot more value than its component parts and how labor was piece of that and how capital was a piece of that and how this produced something and then we were able to sell it to the world. And that's basic, seeing that.

But we also have the ability here to train people and to get them interested in getting involved in that process and today that manufacturing process is so much more high tech, is so much more involved in the

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computers and computer-assisted design, is so much done by machines that cost \$750,000, cutting machines, et cetera that cost \$750,000 a piece that can do incredible amounts of work that take calculus and algebra and mathematical background to work on.

This, allowing these internships is a very, very important part of our educational system, and should be a growing part.

Now, also in addition to having that background I've got UTC and Pratt & Whitney in my district and the fuel cell, UTC fuel cells, also. Major manufacturers and other smaller manufacturers, as Steve Cassano has, many, many smaller machine shops. So that's another impetus for this.

But we also have another great asset in East Hartford called the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology or CCAT as you know. This is a federally funded center of excellence that does tremendous work in being essentially a place where very bright people get together and have great thoughts. And it sounds like I'm coming out of the Wizard of Oz here, but it's a think tank.

And they also work on specific issues. Issues on fuel cells. And one of the specific issues they're working on right now is this whole idea of this plan called Dream It Do It, to give kids a different perspective on manufacturing, starting in the middle school and through high school, and to show them how valuable manufacturing can be in their lives and how careers can be built around manufacturing, how they can make good money, how these are challenging fields, how manufacturing is high tech and is a challenge and it's something that they can get into and spend their lives in and have a family and have their own children and go forward and have an exciting life.

So for all those reasons, I'm putting that all together. This is an excellent bill. It's a needed bill, something that we have to do that's crucial for the future of our children. It's crucial for the future of manufacturing in Connecticut and I can't speak for the manufacturing caucus at this point because we haven't had our first actual meeting. I

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just called meeting. I'm not the chair.

But I would like to say that individually, I strongly endorse this bill and I think it's a great idea and I than the Higher Education Committee for bringing this forward. It's something, it's one of those places where higher ed is really reaching across and helping with manufacturing, helping with our economy. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I again heartily support this bill, but also want to address any concerns that might have been mentioned with regard to liability, you know, various businesses.

The bill specifically targets graduating students or recently graduating students and mostly these individuals have reached the age of 18, so they would be adults and as such, I would believe that most businesses have insurance that covers individuals on their property, whether they're miners or not, and should not be a hindrance, I don't believe, for this program moving forward without any problem whatsoever.

I'm also so pleased to be joined by some distinguished women in this Chamber, both heads of towns, the First Selectwoman of Redding and also two young ladies that are the nieces of our own good distinguished Representative John Frey, who joined me in this Chamber.

And I would like to point out that although manufacturing is often considered a male-dominated industry, it is very clear that in Connecticut we do not just have females involved in the work of engineering and of manufacturing, but we have many, surprisingly many women-owned and women-headed manufacturing establishments of all different sizes.

So it is a great bill to be discussing today and hopefully we've spurred a little interest in some of

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our guests here in the circle, some of the women, so that they also can be thinking about careers in engineering, both mechanical and manufacturing that they will help enrich our State of Connecticut and become the future workforce. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President. And I thank the gentle woman for her comments.

I just, for the purposes of legislative intent want to be clear about one thing, though. The bill refers to 18-year-olds, this bill extends it to 16-year-olds if you follow the language. It's actually very hard to follow, but I just for purposes of the legislative intent, want to be clear about that.

And I also want to thank the Ranking Member for her support on this as well as my Co-Chair and thank Senator LeBeau, who's been such a champion for manufacturing in this Legislature.

I also have to take a minute and thank my attorney, Eileen Lawlor on this because this has been a very challenging bill to make sure we had the balance of safety and education.

And then finally, I want to be sure to thank some of the manufacturers from my district, Swanson Tool, Trump, Colt, Wiremold and Goodrich, all of whom I visited, and like many of us around this circle, all you need to do is visit a manufacturer and watch what they're doing to know that Connecticut's future depends on these men and women working in that field because they have good paying jobs. They continue to innovate. They need our educated workforce and this bill hopefully will help fill that void and help our young people see that there are great jobs in manufacturing from the beginning.

Senator LeBeau mentioned personal examples. I bet

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each of us can cite an example. I know I work in early childhood education because as a biology major I got a work study job in a childcare program on campus, so as a young adult worked in that field, and I think we need more young adults exposed to manufacturing.

Because if you meet people who work in manufacturing, they love what they're doing, so we need more of them. So thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

If there's no objection, I ask that we move this to Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Are there any points of personal privilege or announcements? Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, sir. Mr. President and members of the circle, I would like to introduce you two very good friends and two women who have been extraordinarily influential in culture and arts throughout Fairfield County.

First, Liz Morton. Liz not only is a constituent but is President and Board of Directors of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County. And along with Liz is Ryan Nodnack, Executive Director of the Cultural



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Senate Bill 383; page 27, Calendar 280, Senate  
Bill 345. And on page 29, Calendar 352, Senate  
Bill 353.

THE CHAIR:

Okay. All right.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote on the consent calendar, 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:

Have all members voted?

If all members voted, the machine will be locked.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number voting	36
Necessary for passage	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

First of all, of the matters referred to committee earlier, would move that those items be immediately