

PA12-001

HB5301

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

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Bill Number 5301.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill Number 5301, AN ACT
ADJUSTING INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR MEDICARE
SAVINGS PROGRAM, LCO Number 1379, introduced by
Representative Donovan and Senator Williams.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Peter Tercyak, you have the floor,
sir.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I move passage of the emergency certified bill.

Deputy Speaker country in the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage of the emergency
certified bill. Will you explain the bill please, sir?

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In 2009 we did a good thing like we often do in
this place. We did something good for our budget and
something great for our seniors and people with
disabilities. We encouraged and did in fact move

people from our ConnPACE program onto the Medicare savings program which covered more of their medication and helps cover Medicare Part A for hospitals and nursing homes, Medicare Part B for doctors visits and Medicare Part D for people's medications.

We also have a bill that says every October we will raise the income disregard so that if they get a -- so that if our seniors and disabled get a cost-of-living adjustment we will raise the disregard so that the cost-of-living adjustment doesn't take away their rights under the Medicare savings program.

This year something happened that hadn't happened since 2009. There is -- thank you -- there is a COLA at last. In January people got 3.6 percent.

The problem with that is without a fix by March 1st, that 3.6 percent is going to cause over 4,000 seniors and disabled to lose the higher quality coverage they have, moved down to a lower tier, I believe moving from Quimby Slimby, if we remember those phrases. And there they will have to pay more. We will not be covering everything for them as we would have otherwise. And another 200 people will lose their benefits entirely.

And here's an even -- one more good

thing to -- when we're trying to decide how to decide, we'll have to go through all the expense of figuring out who, and kicking them off the program and everything that goes with that and notify them all. And on October 1st when our present law says we will reset those, those maximums, they will automatically all qualify for what we just kicked them off from. And we will be inviting 4400 people back into the system at their previous level.

It's almost certain to cost us more in getting this done than fixing it. To fix it, it's easy. Our previous bill is great, but it says, October 1st. If we change that to March 1st for all eternity we should be just fine in the future.

That's all it is. Is a technical change that's really going to make a big difference for a lot of the seniors we know. I encourage everybody to support the bill.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Whoa. Now it's not working at all. There we go.

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know if it's a good afternoon or good evening, but we're drifting towards the good evening part.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

It's after six.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

The bills is as described by the representative. And I urge passage of the bill. This is something that we've done in previous times and as he explained there is no difference in the money. It's just -- it's going to make a difference for these people to change the date by which they will get the increase in the COLA plus their -- what is it? The Medicare Part B premiums will still be able -- they will still be able to receive them. So I urge passage of the bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you. Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If so the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take the tally. Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill 5301.

Total number voting 137

Necessary for adoption 69

Those voting Yea 137

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 14

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The emergency certified bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified Bill 5303.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill 5303, AN ACT CONCERNING
THE EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ADDRESSES
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, LCO Number 1396,
introduced by Representative Donovan and Senator

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THE CLERK:

On page 9, Calendar 38, House Bill Number 5301, AN ACT
ADJUSTING INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR MEDICARE
SAVINGS PROGRAMS.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

At this time -- Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Good morning.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

At this time, Madam President, I would move the
emergency certified bill and request passage.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and approval of the bill, will you
remark further, sir?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes. Thank you.

We've been talking about this for awhile now. What
this bill does basically is change the effective date
of moving the Medicaid Savings Program from
October 1st to March 1st. October 1st of 2012, I
should say, back to March 1st 2012.

The reason for this is that there is an increase in
Social Security and the increase would place many of
the folks who are now getting the benefits under this
program, it would price them out. Ironically, it
would put them back into the program on October 1st,
so there would be administrative costs with taking
them in and out, and a lot of people would lose their

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eligibility under the program for those six months.

Rather than have that happen, we've already budgeted for this. We're already covering these people. And again, it's mostly low income and elderly people who are using these programs. We're just trying to get this passed so that they will not drop off eligibility for six months and then be put back on. I think it's really a waste of the state's time and resources to do that sort of thing in any case. So I would just request that the Circle approve this bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

On acceptance and approval of the bill, will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Seeing none, Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

If there are no objections, I'd like to ask that this be placed on consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered sir. Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you.

THE CLERK:

Also on page 9, Calendar 39, House Bill Number 5302,
AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND SOLID WASTE
FACILITIES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Madam President, can we pass that bill and move to the

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Yes. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before moving on to the judicial nominations, if we might call for a vote on the first consent calendar. I believe that we have four items on that calendar at this time.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call the -- call for the consent calendar vote and would you read the items on the consent calendar, please?

THE CLERK:

On page 8, Calendar Number 1, Calendar Number 2; on page 9, Calendar Number 3 and Calendar Number 38.

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SR7 HB5301

THE CHAIR:

The machines will be opened. If you will call for a roll call vote on the consent calendar, sir.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Will all Senators please report to the Chamber.
Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number voting	34
Necessary for adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0

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Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar has been adopted.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would move now to mark additional items on our calendar. Under the judicial nominations on calendar page 1, Calendar Number 4, House Joint Resolution Number 3 is marked go; Calendar Number 5, House Joint Resolution Number 4, marked go.

All of the items on page 2, Calendar Number 6, House Joint Resolution Number 5; Calendar Number 7, House Joint Resolution Number 6; Calendar Number 8, House Joint Resolution Number 7; Calendar Number 9, House Joint Resolution Number 8; and Calendar Number 10, House Joint Resolution Number 9. All of those items are marked go.

Moving to calendar page 3, Calendar Number 11, House Joint Resolution Number 10; Calendar Number 12, House Joint Resolution Number 11; Calendar 13, House Joint Resolution Number 12, also marked go. And Calendar 14, House Joint Resolution Number 13; and Calendar Number 15, House Joint Resolution Number 14, all those items on calendar page 3 marked go.

Moving to calendar page 4, Calendar Number 16, House Joint Resolution Number 15; Calendar Number 17, House Joint Resolution Number 16; Calendar Number 18, House Joint Resolution Number 17; Calendar Number 19, House Joint Resolution Number 18; and Calendar Number 20, House Joint Resolution Number 19. All those items also marked go.

Moving to calendar page 5, Calendar Number 21, House Joint Resolution Number 20; Calendar Number 22, House Joint Resolution Number 21; Calendar Number 23, House Joint Resolution Number 22; Calendar Number 24, House