

PA12-208

SB0391

House	8221-8222, 8288-8290	5
Human Services	466, 659	2
<u>Senate</u>	<u>2115-2117, 2430-2431, 2490</u>	<u>6</u>
		13

H – 1147

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL.55
PART 25
8215 - 8555**

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

362
May 9, 2012

Representative Brendan Sharkey, House Majority
Leader, sir, for what reason do you rise?

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just to be safe, I move that we
immediately transmit all items that we've taken up here
in the House that require additional action in the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to immediately transmit all items that
need any further action to the Senate.

Any objection?

Hearing none, all items are immediately transmitted.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to now do -- begin our work
on a consent calendar. There are a number of bills that
will not require amendments and I'd like to read them now
by calendar number.

They would be Calendar Number 204, Calendar Number
412, Calendar Number 425, Calendar 426, Calendar 442,
Calendar 460, Calendar 495, Calendar 507, and Calendar
508.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

HB 308

SB 157

SB 339

SB 340

SB 41

SB 116

SB 188

SB 371

SB 391

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

363
May 9, 2012

Motion is to place these items on the consent
calendar.

Is there any objection?

Any objection?

Hearing none, those items are placed on the consent
calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 71.

THE CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 71, Substitute for House Bill
Number 5025, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTING FIRMS, favorable report by the Committee on
Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Russ Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening, sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

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

429
May 9, 2012

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

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

430
May 9, 2012

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
HB5320
SB254

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

431
May 9, 2012

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
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Necessary for Adoption	76
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Those Voting Yea	150
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Those Voting Nay	0
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Those Absent and Not Voting	1
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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:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HUMAN
SERVICES
PART 2
261 – 527**

2012

Bremby, from DSS, followed by Representative Kupchick, and then Vicki Veltri, the Healthcare Advocate.

COMMISSIONER RODERICK L. BREMBY: Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak, distinguished members of the committee.

I'm Rod Bremby, Commissioner of DSS, and I'm here today to testify on a number of bills that impact our department. I believe you have before you our testimony, so I'll just hit the -- the highlights and stand for questions, along with several members of my staff.

Regarding Senate Bill 391, AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO VETERANS TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, this bill proposes that Veterans' aid and attendance be excluded from determining eligibility for DSS programs and services. We believe that there will be a minimal impact for withholding, and so based on the information we have at this time, we support this proposal.

Senate Bill 392, AN ACT CONCERNING PHARMACY MEDICATION REIMBURSEMENT. The purpose of this bill is to establish various reimbursement rates for different types of pharmacies, to establish tiers, in effect. The reimbursement would be based on whether a retail pharmacy is a chain versus an independent pharmacy. The language in the bill distinguishes independent pharmacies from chain pharmacies, based on ownership, as privately owned versus publicly traded, and by the number of in-state stores. While this proposal is well intended, funding was not including in the Governor's recommended budget adjustments to support this increase. Therefore, this proposal cannot be supported by the department.

Senate Bill 394, AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID

- SB395
- SB396
- SB397
- HB5450
- HB5451
- HB5452
- HB5475
- HB5476
- HB5477
- HB5480
- HB5481
- HB5482
- HB5483

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HUMAN
SERVICES
PART 3
528 – 785**

2012



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Testimony before the Human Services Committee

Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby

March 13, 2012

Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Roderick Bremby and I am Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS). I am here today to testify on a number of bills that impact the department.

S.B. No. 391 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS BY VETERANS TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

This bill proposes that Veterans' Aid and Attendance be excluded from determining eligibility for DSS programs and services. We believe that the impact would be minimal due to the small number of clients that would be affected and could easily be implemented by the department on behalf of veterans. Therefore, based on the information we have at this time, we support this proposal.

S.B. No. 392 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PHARMACY MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT.

The purpose of this bill is to establish various reimbursement rates for different types of pharmacies. Reimbursement would be based on whether a retail pharmacy is a chain versus an independent pharmacy. The language in this bill distinguishes independent pharmacies from chain pharmacies based on ownership (privately owned versus publicly traded) and by the number of in-state stores.

The CT Pharmacy Association has for years advocated for the department to establish differential reimbursement for independent pharmacies and chain pharmacies. Due to the volume of transactions, chain pharmacies have enhanced negotiating power and are able to purchase pharmaceuticals at a much more discounted rate than independent pharmacies.

While this proposal is well-intended, funding was not included in the Governor's recommended budget adjustments to support this increase. Therefore, this proposal cannot be supported by the department.

SB394

SB395

SB396

SB397

HB5450

HB5451

HB5452

HB5475

HB5476

HB5477

HB5480

HB5481

HB5482

HB5483

S - 642

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL. 55
PART 7
1961 - 2275**

mhr/gbr
SENATE

14
May 1, 2012

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I appreciate that answer, and that's all I have.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President. Good morning or good afternoon.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Just one question, if I may, to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

Through you, Madam President, if I were to apply for a job with a company and on their application process they ask me to list all my current employers, and then there was a separate section that asked me to list all the times of which I was not employed, would that be impacted by the bill that's before us? Through you, Madam President.

mhr/gbr
SENATE

15
May 1, 2012

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Through you, Madam President, no, because that would be on the application as opposed to the advertising. This only speaks to the advertising.

SENATOR WITKOS:

I thank the gentleman for his answers.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

A couple of questions to the proponent of the bill, through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Senator LeBeau -- through you, Madam President -- isn't it essentially the same thing? If you advertise a job in a certain area and you want to attract a certain type of candidate that's qualified, not 10,000 but narrow it down to the maybe six or seven in the area that might be fully qualified to take that job, and in that advertisement you say minimum two-to-

mhr/gbr
SENATE

16
May 1, 2012

three-to-four years currency in whatever that -- and currency as far as skill is concerned -- in whatever that particular field is, isn't that the same thing as saying if you're not employed right now, don't bother applying?

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau. .

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Well, if you're using the word "currency," I think that might. That might be a good question. But -- but to say a person is currently -- but, I mean, currency might be currency of skills, currency of qualification, currency of knowledge. I think if you're, if that is what the intent is and -- of course, this eventually, if any complaints were made, they would go to the CHRO; they would have an opportunity to look into this. But if you're talking about currency of skills, knowledge, ability, those things certainly are legitimate. And knowing what's happening today in your field is legitimate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

And through you, Madam President, this is clearly just trying to set out legislative intent. We know that several years down the road, our debate will be long forgotten and maybe we will be too. But whatever arguments were put forth and -- and put forth in front of this Circle may -- may -- may be reviewed by a Court, a judge, a jury. So wherever the camera is, to any future judges and juries, Senator LeBeau, through the great Madam President here, has made it very clear that this bill before us today relates solely to advertising and solely to prevent the phrases like the unemployed need not apply, something as blatant as that. And, also, anything that may subtly be in there, such as we only want people to apply if they

S - 643

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

**VOL. 55
PART 8
2276 - 2638**

cah/meb/gdm/rgd/tmj
SENATE

192
May 2, 2012

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.

cah/meb/gdm/rgd/tmj
SENATE

193
May 2, 2012

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

cah/meb/gdm/rgd/tmj
SENATE

252
May 2, 2012

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.