

**PA12-065**

SB0227

Commerce	195-199, 328-333	11
House	6980-6984	5
Senate	2024, 2034-2035	<u>3</u>
		<b>19</b>

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE  
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in prior to that if you'd like to come up to address the Committee.

REP. NICASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. I've got three of them today. Well, like we all do, we're all busy. Mr. Chairman, I just thought I'd mention the Chamber of Commerce is here to testify on the same bill. Would you want to bring them up at the same time and get it done? It's very short. That's up to you, sir.

REP. BERGER: Well, thank you for addressing the Chairs, and if you think that's appropriate, Representative, we'll more than welcome that. And if they come up, they can also identify themselves for the record, please.

REP. NICASTRO: Mr. Chairman, Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Berger, Distinguished Members of the Commerce Committee, we're here to testify on Senate Bill 227. Along with me is the Chamber President for Central Connecticut, it's Michael Nicastro.

He's my kid brother as it turns out. There's not much of an age difference. I was overseas getting shot at when he was born. We're here both on the same bill. Actually --

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

SENATOR LEBEAU: Who does your mother like the best? That's what really counts.

REP. NICASTRO: I'm testifying in reference to Senate Bill 227, I have presented testimony, AN ACT CONCERNING CORRECTIONS TO THE CENCUS DESIGNATIONS. This bill is making certain revisions to the bioscience designations in the city of Bristol. I am urging you to make the following revisions on the map provided.

Currently, the census track for the bioscience zones in Bristol is 4051, 4052, and 4053. What Bristol is looking to do is to keep zone 4051, add 4061 and 4054 and delete 4053 and 4052.

I'd like to point out the reason why we're asking to do this is that 4052 and 4053 are strongly residential areas, and the ones that we want to add are down in our industrial park and clearly where the bioscience belongs. So what we're saying is remove two and add two.

We're not asking for extra, just to correct an error that was made. It wasn't done, the error that was made wasn't done intentionally. It was just an error that was made. And basically, that's it. It's as simple as that.

REP. BERGER: Thank you.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Mike.

MICHAEL NICASTRO: For the record, Mike Nicastro, President and CEO of Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce. I won't repeat what Frank said. He articulated it pretty clearly as to the census tracks that need to be replaced.

Let me just give it a little added incentive. With Jackson Labs, I don't think we have to tell or say anything. The opportunity for bioscience in the Central Connecticut region has gone up significantly.

Traditionally, it's been pretty strong in the New Haven and Shore Line areas, but now Central Connecticut has got a shot at it as well. To that extent, we have, we announced about a month ago that we will be launching

out of the Chamber of Commerce a business incubator.

Bioscience, biomechanic will be one of those elements. And we, within the next month, we will also be offering, opening an office of Angel Capital.

And one of the things that we did with that was to sign a three-year contract to do the administrative management of the Angel Investor Forum, which is the state's only professional Angel organization. And they work very closely with Connecticut Innovations. They do a lot of co-investment.

I've been a member and a board member of that organization as well. So everything is kind of lining up with the stars and moons here. The difficulty is is if we get a candidate for the area, as Frank mentioned, the residential area is not going to cut it.

And so you have to have site selector areas that are viable and competitive for the region. And the two replacement census tracts that we gave you would do that very well. One abuts ESPN, so you have a lot of high-tech development and big organizations down there.

And the other puts it in the downtown area, which is under redevelopment, active redevelopment right now. So with that, I will wrap it up, but thank you for hearing us. We support S.B. 227, and we encourage you to push it right along.

Just one quick note just before I, and I had not planned to say anything on this, but I heard our friends from Westville here. As a parent of a senior at SCSU, I can tell you in

four years I have seen the Westville section change drastically, improve drastically.

If we're going to make great investments in the state, and as the head of a Chamber of Commerce, I'd encourage you to help them out. I think it's a great thing to see, and, you know, as she leaves the school, I think it's a good, you know, been a great area, and we've watched it do very well. So we throw our support behind it.

REP. BERGER: Thank you. Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU: I think this is like a new experience. You know, you've got the Brothers Karamazov here today. But the question, how did it happen that the wrong census tracks were designated? Are you, do you have any knowledge of that? Mike, do you?

MICHAEL NICASTRO: Yeah, actually, I spoke with the, it's a former Legislator now, who was involved with that legislation. And it appears at point in time, they just kind of drew the map and went with three census tracks that were just contiguous to the farming timeline. And in reality, they didn't study what was the right area or what was the right zone.

SENATOR LEBEAU: So essentially inappropriate to appropriate --

MICHAEL NICASTRO: Yeah.

SENATOR LEBEAU: -- from residential to commercial and potentially industrial for some time.

MICHAEL NICASTRO: Highly commercial and industrial.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Highly commercial, high-tech. It sounds like you're doing all the right things down there too, so, in terms of utilizing the Jackson Labs opportunity and the growth at the University of Connecticut.

So just one other question I had. These are different census tracks. And census tracks, I don't have a map, so I don't know what they look like. I would like to get a map that would show the change in the census tracks. That would be helpful, I think, to us, to the Committee.

REP. NICASTRO: Senator, the map should be attached to my testimony, but (inaudible).

SENATOR LEBEAU: Oh, it is.

MICHAEL NICASTRO: Yeah.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Thank you. Thanks, Frank. We'll take a look at that. It seems that it's a, okay. Do you have any idea what the square mileage is? Actually, it looks like a, what you've done is to actually reduce the total size of the, in terms of the square footage and in terms of square mileage. Pretty close.

MICHAEL NICASTRO: It's almost a wash.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Okay. Well, thank you very much.

MICHAEL NICASTRO: Okay. Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Questions or comments from Committee Members? Thank you for your testimony.

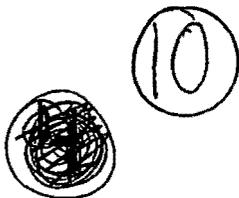
MICHAEL NICASTRO: Thank you, Senator.

REP. BERGER: Representative Crawford.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE  
PART 2  
284 - 565**

**2012**



State of Connecticut  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 STATE CAPITOL  
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK N. NICASTRO, SR.  
 SEVENTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
 ROOM 4063  
 HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
 HOME: (860) 585-6070  
 CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
 TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267  
 E-MAIL: Frank.Nicastro@cga.ct.gov

VICE CHAIRMAN  
 SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MEMBER  
 GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
 TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 28, 2012

Dear Co-Chairmen, Sen. LeBeau, Rep. Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony today.

I'm testifying in reference to the SB 227, AN ACT CONCERNING CORRECTIONS TO CERTAIN CENSUS DESIGNATIONS. This bill is making certain revisions to the Bio Science designations in the City of Bristol. I am urging you to make the following revisions to the map provided.

Currently the Census Tract for the Bio Science Zones is: 4051, 4052 and 4053. What Bristol is looking to do is to keep zones 4051, add 4061 and 4054; delete 4053 and 4052. I would like to point out that zones 4052 and 4053 are strongly residential areas and the Bio Science Zones would serve no purpose there.

I would respectfully urge the Committee to adopt those revisions.

Thank you,

Sincerely

Frank N. Nicastro Sr  
 State Representative



Central Connecticut  
Chambers of Commerce

one region. one voice.

**Remarks Regarding SB 227  
Commerce Committee Public Hearing  
February 28, 2012**

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the Commerce Committee.

My name is Michael Nicastrò and I am the President & Chief Executive Officer of the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce headquartered in Bristol. We serve more than 1500 businesses, smaller chambers and various trade associations in the Central Connecticut region.

I appear before you today in support of senate bill 227, An Act Concerning Corrections to Certain Census Designations.

Sometime ago the legislature created a bio-science enterprise zone extending out from the John Dempsey Hospital and University of Connecticut Medical School. The original legislation sought to create a zone that was close in proximity to the UCONN Farmington location.

As such, communities such as New Britain and Bristol were provided certain census tracts in which the bio-science zone designation could be leveraged. Properly executed the communities involved could have an opportunity to compete for the economic value that these types of businesses can bring to the local economy and labor force of the region and the state as a whole.

The bill we support here today seeks to amend the earlier designations in order to correct a location issue for the City of Bristol.

Two of the three census tracts (4052 & 4053) which are currently designated for Bristol are primarily zoned for residential and retail. As such there is very little in the way of available properties or developable land in these two census tracts that could be used for bio-science organizations.

As I'm sure the committee is aware, the competition for bio-science companies can be extensive and having two census tracts that would have literally no viable site inventory with which to compete would result in bio-science zone designation as being nothing more than symbolic.

By replacing 4052 & 4053 with census tracts 4054 & 4061 as proposed in SB 227 the entire downtown section of the city which is an active redevelopment area as well as the new Southeast Business Park which abuts the ESPN North Campus would make the opportunity envisioned by the original legislation viable. With these two census tracts



along with 4051 which contains Bristol Hospital and was the one correct designation, the creation of the bio-science zone will have a greater chance to succeed.

With the advent of Jackson Labs the opportunity for bio-science to become a more common industry in Central Connecticut has increased. To that extent and with a community hospital right in our own backyard The Chamber has announced that it will open a Business Incubator within the next 18 months. The incubator will target 3 industries; media technologies, information technologies and bio-science/bio-mechanical.

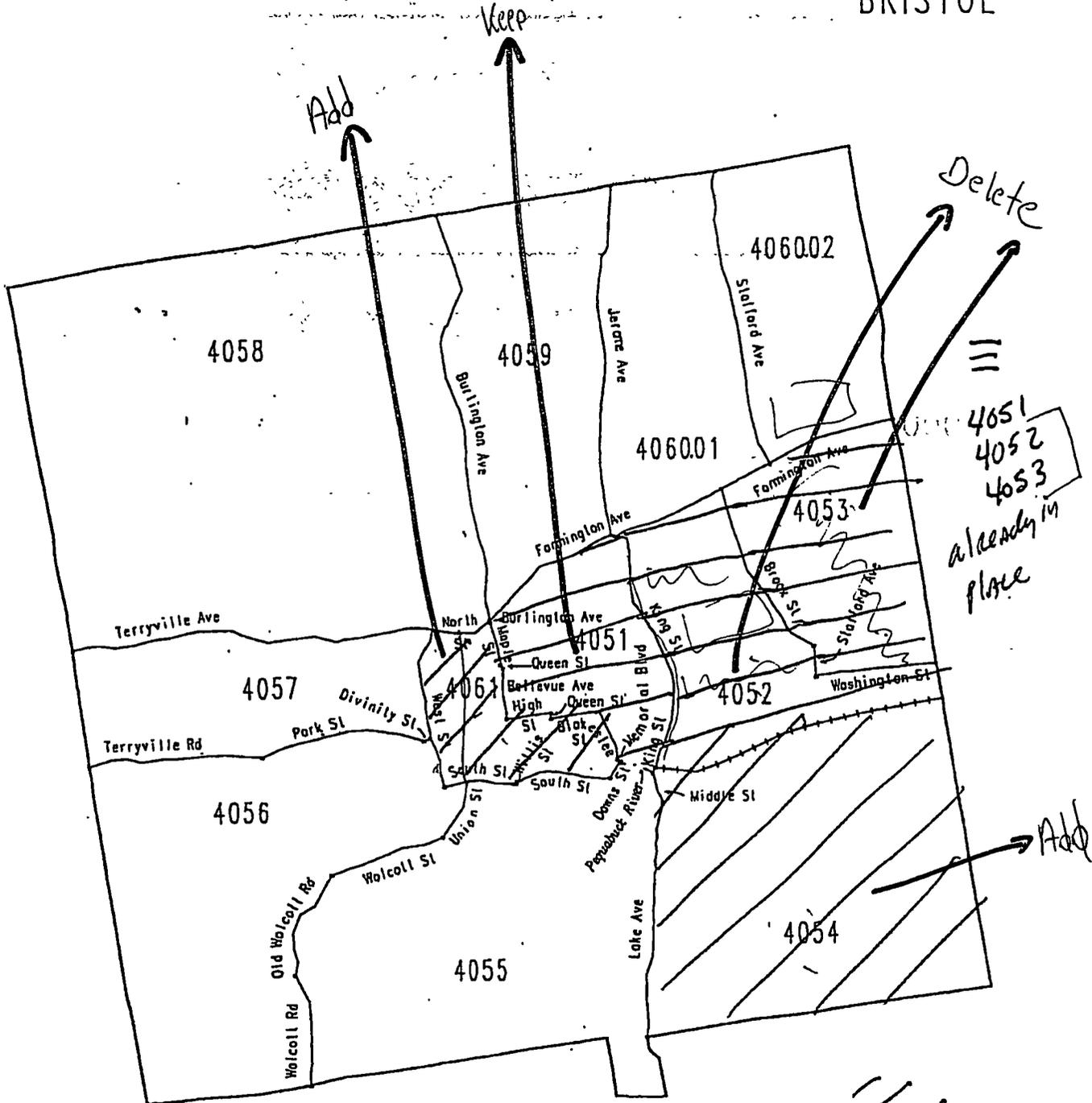
As a first step the Chamber is in the process of opening an office of Angel Capital. This will provide local entrepreneurs a place to meet with Angel Investors and discuss possible investments. It will also be an additional source of mentoring from experience investors and serial entrepreneurs. This will open in May as my organization has just signed a three contract to provide the administrative services to the Angel Investor Forum of Connecticut, the state's only professional Angel group.

This is why SB 227 is so important. While simple in content the effects are powerful, especially when you consider all of the other elements which are now in place.

So we ask that you continue the advancement of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you this morning and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding this issue.

BRISTOL



4051  
4052  
4053  
already in place

4061  
4054  
needed for  
Expansion  
SCALE 1" = 400'



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR JASON WELCH**  
THIRTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 3400  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
E-mail: Jason.Welch@cga.ct.gov

MINORITY WHIP

RANKING MEMBER  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Public Hearing Testimony  
February 28, 2012  
Commerce Committee  
Jason Welch, State Senator, 31<sup>st</sup> District

Re: **S.B. 227** – An Act Concerning Corrections to Certain Census Designations

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **S.B. 227** – An Act Concerning Corrections to Certain Census Designations.

On behalf of the City of Bristol, I am respectfully requesting that two of our currently-designated bioscience zones be replaced by two other zones that are located in industrially-zoned areas. I have attached a map for your reference. Currently, we have 4051, 4052 and 4053 designated for bioscience. We wish to keep 4051 and replace 4052 and 4053 with 4054 and 4061.

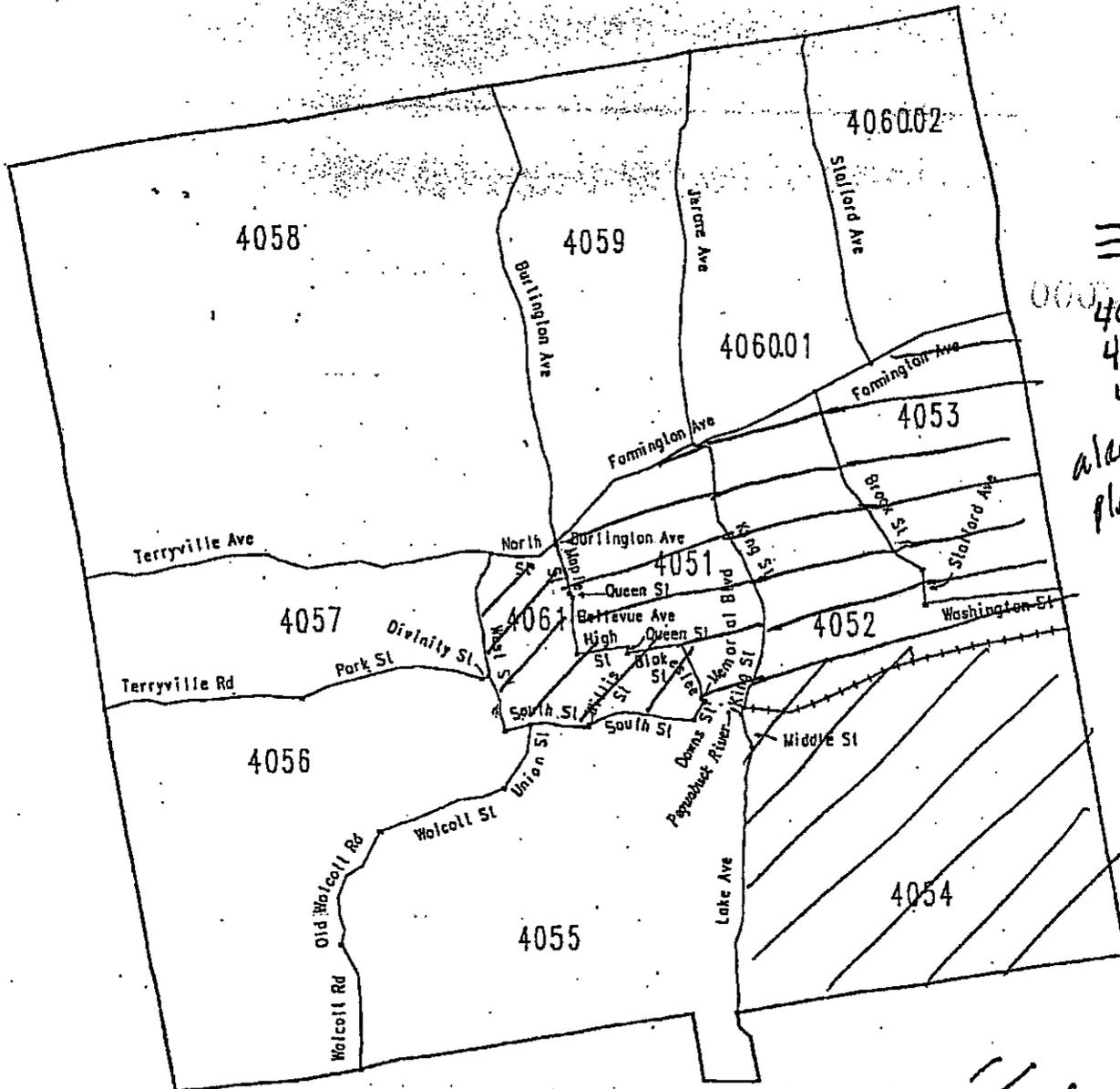
The passage of this proposal is an important piece to Bristol's overall strategy to attract new businesses and lower the unemployment in our districts.

In closing, I would like to thank the co-chairs for their willingness to raise **SB 227** this session. I sincerely hope that the committee looks favorable on this bill so that it can make its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

*Jason C. Welch*  
Jason Welch

BRISTOL



≡  
 000  
 4051  
 4052  
 4053  
 already in  
 place

≡  
 4061  
 4054  
 needed for  
 Expansion  
 SCALE 1" = 400'

**H – 1143**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

**VOL.55  
PART 21  
6812 – 7162**

meb/rgd/tmj/gdm/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

503  
May 7, 2012

Necessary for adoption	74
Those voting Yea	147
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Bill as amended is passed -- I'm sorry -- the bill is passed.

Mr. Clerk, 447, please.

THE CLERK:

On page 27, Calendar 447, Senate Bill Number 227, AN ACT CONCERNING CORRECTIONS TO CERTAIN CENSUS DESIGNATIONS, favorable report by the Committee on Commerce.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Distinguished Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Question is on acceptance and passage.

Explain the bill, please, sir.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This -- this Chamber along with the Senate passed Public Act 10-104 which extended enterprise zoned benefits of businesses and commercial properties in Bristol generally located near Bristol Hospital.

Enterprise-zoned benefits include property tax exemptions, business tax credits and sales tax exemptions. This bill, Mr. Speaker, will modify the designation of Bristol's bioscience zone by submitted two census tracks in commercial industrial zone for two residential tracks that were done in error of the previous public act. I move for passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

The distinguished ranking member of the Commerce Committee, Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I urge passage of this bill. As the chairman said of Commerce, this just modifies the Bristol's bioscience zone and is a critical component to their strategic business plan there so I urge passage. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

meb/rgd/tmj/gdm/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

505  
May 7, 2012

Thank you, sir.

The gentleman from Bristol, Representative Nicastro.

REP. NICASTRO (79th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Commerce Committee and Representative Berger, as chairman, and all concerned about correcting this error. It was a mistake that we realized, but it was too late in the year last year to correct it so they handled it for us this year. And I'd like to thank everybody concerned for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

The other gentleman from Bristol, Representative Christopher Wright.

REP. CHRISTOPER WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I would like to rise in favor of the bill. I would like to thank the chairman of the Commerce Committee, Representative Berger, for bringing this up. This is an important bill for the city of Bristol including these two new tracks. This is a business that will be big in Bristol and I think it will be important to the state of Connecticut and it will be paying off dividends to the state and we

meb/rgd/tmj/gdm/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

506  
May 7, 2012

thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Briefly, I just want to echo the comments of my fellow colleagues and thank the Commerce department and ask for everybody to support this very important bill. Thank you very much, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Are you ready for the question?

If so, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will the members please 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 RYAN:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?  
Will members please check the board to determine if their cast is properly cast. If the members have voted, the

machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 227 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total number voting	149
Necessary for adoption	75
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The bill is passed in concurrence with the Senate.

Mr. Clerk, 387.

THE CLERK:

On page 17, Calendar 387, Substitute for House Bill 5504, AN ACT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR, favorable report of the Committee on the Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Gerry Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

**S - 642**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

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

pat/med/gbr  
SENATE

98  
April 27, 2012

Yes, thank you, Mr. President. If we might stand at ease for a moment. We are checking on a couple of additional items.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(CHAMBER AT EASE.)

The Senate will come back to order. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, thank you. Mr. President, another item to place on the Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 1, Calendar 63, Senate Bill 227. Mr. President, if we might move that item to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing and hearing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Also, I believe the Clerk is now in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2 dated Friday, April 27, 2012. It's been distributed and should be on Senators' desks.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move all items on Senate Agenda Number 2 dated Friday, April 27, 2012 to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be

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SENATE

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April 27, 2012

On Page 29, Calendar 138, Senate Bill Number 27.

Page 26, Calendar 88, Senate Bill 55.

On Page 34, Calendar 311, Senate Bill 101.

On Page 9, Calendar 321, Senate Bill 414.

On Page 1, Calendar Number 63, Senate Bill 227.

On Page 5, Calendar 225, Senate Bill 410.

And on Page 11, Calendar 332, Senate Bill 341.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President, if we might wait just a moment.  
We needed to verify a couple of items before the  
Consent Calendar is voted.

THE CHAIR:

Absolutely, sir.

THE CLERK:

And there is one more item. On Page 33, Calendar 295,  
Senate Bill Number 248.

THE CHAIR:

Are any other additions or corrections that we can  
see? If not, then Mr. Clerk, will you please call for  
a roll call vote and the machine will be opened on the  
Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

An 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:

pat/med/gbr  
SENATE

109  
April 27, 2012

Have all members voted? If all members voted the machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally on the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	35
Necessary for passage	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes.

Right now I ask for points of personal privilege.  
Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

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

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Madam President, on my way up to the Capitol this morning I learned the sad news of the passing of a good friend, Jo McKenzie, who many of us in the circle, especially those of us who belong to the Republican Party, affectionately knew Joe McKenzie as Momma Jo.

I first met Momma Jo in the early 1970s as a young boy. She was always active in the Republican Party. In 1979 she was the first woman ever elected Chairman of the Connecticut Republican Party and for probably 15 years plus, served as Republican National Committee Woman from the State of Connecticut.

She was a wonderful woman, always with a laugh and fun, had an incredible sense of style as you may know.