

PA12-075

SB0078

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**COMMERCE
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lg/sg/cd COMMERCE COMMITTEE

February 21, 2012
10:00 A.M.

REP. BERGER: Thank you for your testimony.

Questions from the committee members?

RITA ZENGARI: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Again, thank you for testifying today. Particularly -- and this committee again -- there is a heart of the committee that beats with technology. And trying to expand our technology and trying to expand upon that, create new jobs and particularly small businesses, incubators. As you know, this is legislation -- the initial legislation -- test bed legislation is something I worked on going back about 10 or 12 years ago now. It hasn't been utilized enough. And I think it's because too narrowly framed, and I think that it should -- what the bill does and what you are presenting today would broaden that frame and allow a lot more Connecticut companies, startups, to utilize the legislation to help Connecticut jobs. So I thank you for testifying on behalf of the bill.

RITA ZENGARI: Thank you for --

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Senator, and thank you for your testimony.

Dan Keune -- from CAR.

Sharon, were you going to go separately or --

(Inaudible.)

Okay.

DAN KEUNE: Good afternoon. My name is Dan Keune, and I am going to be speaking today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Realtors, comprised of 15,000 real estate professionals

SB 78

across the state. In addition to being a realtor, I am also a chairman of the Ellington Board of Education, but I'd like to make it clear that I do not for the board today.

Senate Bill 78 would bring to light a piece of legislation approved in last year's regular session, the "Learn Here, Live Here" Program. In essence, if you learn in a qualified vo-tech or public college, you are encouraged to live in our state, after graduation, through a unique housing trust fund. State income taxes, paid by those graduates would be set aside by the State Treasurer in a fund to help them buy their first home, provided, of course, it's located in Connecticut.

I said the bill would bring the program to life because as presently enacted the "Learn Here, Live Here" is purely permissive. It depends completely on the spending priorities of the administration. Importantly, the "Learn Here, Live Here" concept was signed into law by Governor Malloy as part of the majority leader's job growth round table act. Unfortunately, there was no mention of it in the Governor's \$330 million housing proposal that they unveiled on February 1st.

Connecticut realtors urge this initiative consider with higher priority. It is a reasonable startup funding. Dollar for dollar, we believe it will yield better returns to Connecticut taxpayers than many other programs and especially in view of the economic multiplier created by the purchase of a home. The realtors favor Connecticut Senate Bill 78 because it will help stem our state brain drain and incentivize young people to stay in Connecticut. It will help attract and keep job creating businesses, many of whom consider our state lack of affordable housing a competitive

disadvantage in recruiting skilled workforces; It will also stimulate the private housing market, which dearly is in need of some assistance at this time. But this bill does do one other thing that needs to be run by your budget experts, the original law limits the type of educational institutions that were eligible for the "Live Here, Learn Here." Senate Bill 78, however, significantly broadens that universe. We would hate to see this bill fail if that is identified as a fiscal problem. The expanded language is meritorious, but only if it does not hamper the program startup.

Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Thank you for your testimony.

Any questions?

Senator LeBeau?

SENATOR LEBEAU: Dan, I wish you were speaking for the Ellington Board of Education, but you don't have to. It was very articulate.

DAN KEUNE: I would love to sit here and talk about the Ellington Board of Education.

SENATOR LEBEAU: You seem to have had a hard time getting together this year.

DAN KEUNE: Yes.

SENATOR LEBEAU: But, thank you for being here, and we'll look at the last few comments you made, I think are important.

DAN KEUNE: Thank you.

SENATOR LEBEAU: In terms of the fiscal impact and cost of losing what we have.

DAN KEUNE: Believe me, I think we're all sensitive to the fact that it's not unlimited money up here.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Exactly.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Thank you very much.

DAN KEUNE: Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Thank you, Senator.

Any other questions?

Thank you for your testimony.

DAN KEUNE: Thank you.

REP. BERGER: Sharon Hallock.

SHARON HALLOCK: Good afternoon, Chairman, Representative Berger, and Senator LeBeau, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Sharon Hallock, and I am here today to ask your support of the Senate Bill 78, Learn Here, Work Here legislation that Dan just spoke to.

I am here as a concerned citizen of the state of Connecticut. I live in Oakville and have worked in Waterbury my whole life and most recently as the association executive of the Greater Waterbury Board of Realtors for over 30 years. I am concerned over the loss of our young adults in Connecticut.

As a selfish mom who wanted my only child to live close to home when he left the nest, I got lucky. Ten years ago, my son graduated from Kaynor Tech in Waterbury, managed to find employment in his field -- electronics -- in

Connecticut. It's not a high-level job, but he makes a decent wage and has been able to support his family and himself. Things were good then, he was able to move right into his own condo and, shortly, into his own home in Waterbury. But like so many other Americans, finances got very tight now, and he's living hand-to-mouth and was forced to sell his house in Waterbury and move back to Oakville -- in a rental.

Usually, the 'burbs are more expensive than the city, but the savings in taxes alone pay for his child care for his two children for three days a week so his wife could at least go and find a part-time job. Fortunately, he still works for the same company, but if that were to change at any time, his next move would be out of the state. That's what scares me. There is really no place in Connecticut with affordable jobs, and the job market is very limited. His kids are now in public school. His wife still cannot find a suitable full-time position in her field. She has a bachelor's degree from Hartford University and a graphic art certificate from Goodwin College. And she did what Rep. Noujaim recommended -- expressed -- expressed earlier -- and expanded her skills, by getting her graphic arts degree. She can work in Kmart and clean houses anywhere, when push comes to shove, but they tell me over and over if he loses his job, they are out of Connecticut. Just like all of their friends that they went to school with that were forced out of the state and never came back after they left Connecticut.

Well, my son was able to find work in his field, which kept him here. They lost so many friends who went on to college in Boston, New York, New York City, North Carolina. And when we asked why, they all said the same thing. As

much as they miss home and family and friends, they just saw no opportunity for them in their home state, not enough job opportunities and definitely not enough to support themselves in Connecticut.

So I ask you to please consider in enforcing this bill that was put on the books last year. The program would be very beneficial to the social and economic turnaround of the municipal areas, such as the city of Waterbury, which hails UConn, a community college, a technical high, and is going to have a vocational/technical school in one of the poorest neighborhoods coming to town.

The "Learn Here, Work Here" Program will be an incentive to keep at least those students who go to school in Connecticut, in Connecticut, because once they leave, they will not back. So, again, in closing just ask you to support Senate Bill 78, to expand the inclusion of private universities in Connecticut, as well -- if that's fiscally responsible -- but to please at least get that program funded so that it becomes reality, and I applaud the fact that we are addressing in the state of Connecticut the need to retain our young adults. They are our future generation.

REP. BERGER: Thank -- thank you, Sharon. Also, if you could, Sharon, put that in writing and get that over to our clerk --

SHARON HALLOCK: Yes, I will.

REP. BERGER: Because I think that is very compelling testimony and we would like the members to have that in their packets for further review.

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February 21, 2012
10:00 A.M.

SHARON HALLOCK: I realize it's more a emotional
testimony versus statistical, but --

REP. BERGER: No, that's fine.

SHARON HALLOCK: I appreciate you listening to me.

REP. BERGER: All right. You are welcome.

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU: I just concur with my co-chair. I
thought it was very compelling testimony. I'd
really like to see it --

SHARON HALLOCK: Okay.

SENATOR LEBEAU: So it's part of the record. And
it's difficult for us. We do the three-word
thing and everything goes down, but by the time
it actually comes back in some cases we've
already -- it's already too late.

SHARON HALLOCK: Yes, the written one is a little
bit bigger. I'll make sure --

SENATOR LEBEAU: It's more accessible -

SHARON HALLOCK: I'll make sure you get it.

SENATOR LEBEAU: It's more accessible to us.

SHARON HALLOCK: Thank you.

SENATOR LEBEAU: Thank you very much.

REP. BERGER: Thank you.

Alicia Woodshy? Alicia, is she here?

Okay. Ann Raymond?

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Testimony of
 The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
 Before the
 Commerce Committee
 February 21, 2012

Re: SB 1, AAC Connecticut Jobs and the Economy
SB 78, AAC the Learn Here, Live Here Program

Senators LeBeau and Frantz, Representatives Berger and Camillo, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) regarding the above-referenced bills.

SB 1, AAC Connecticut Jobs and the Economy

S.B. 1 proposes to change the eligibility requirements of the Department of Economic and Community Development's Small Business Express program by increasing the employee limit from 50 to 100. PCSW is concerned that by increasing the size of the eligible companies, small businesses, which has been defined by statute as 50 or less employees, will not receive the full benefit of this program that was intended to serve them.

Impact on CT Women: Microenterprises, which are businesses that employ five or fewer people, are dominated by women and generally start as part-time, home-based businesses. In 2005, there were 320,399 microenterprises in Connecticut, with an annual payroll of \$6.7 million.'

SB 78, AAC the Learn Here, Live Here Program

S.B. 78 would expand the Learn Here, Live Here program to include graduates of a private university/college or health care training school in the state. Upon passage, these graduates would become eligible for a first-time home buyers program.

PCSW's Young Women's Leadership Project (YWLP), a project that focuses on empowering young women (ages 18-35) to lead their best lives possible, supports this expansion because the majority of students graduating from health care training schools are women. Young women that choose to pursue their education outside of a public institution of should be entitled to the same benefits as their fellow public university graduates.

Many young people are deterred from staying in the State of Connecticut because of the high cost of housing. Consumers in their 20s are more likely to purchase property at a younger age than their older family members. These individuals are not necessarily waiting for marriage or even a long-term relationship before becoming

PCSW Testimony
Before the Commerce Committee
February 21, 2012
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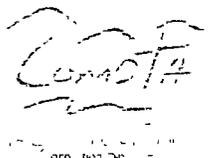
homeowners.¹ Single females represent the fastest growing segment of the home buyers market. The proportion of single women buying homes has increased, from 14% in 1995 to 21% while single men make up 9% of buyers.²

In order for Connecticut to have a highly skilled workforce as the baby boomer generation retires, we need to encourage young people graduating from all types of higher education to remain in state upon graduation. We support the creation of initiatives such as these to reduce Connecticut's "brain drain" and applaud the committee for your attention to this important issue.

We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

¹US Census Findings, 2005.

¹ <http://www.flondahomeloan.com/2006/09/younger-first-time-home-buyers-enter.html>
² <http://www.realtor.org/rmodaily.nsf/0/ec9b3798c397dc42862571ea00594a7c?OpenDocument>



The Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association
370 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.connota.org

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2012

SB-78 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM.

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee,

As President of the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association, I am writing in support of efforts to encourage students graduating from public and private colleges and universities in Connecticut to remain in the state and find work. There is currently a shortage of occupational therapists to meet the demand for the range of services offered through occupational therapy. I also request that school of occupational therapy specifically be included in this bill, as follows.

For the purposes of this section, "health care training school" means of medical or dental school, chiropractic college, school or college of optometry, school or college of chiropody or podiatry, school or college of natureopathy, school of dental hygiene, school of physical therapy, school of occupational therapy or any other school or institution giving instruction in the healing arts.

What Is Occupational Therapy?

In its simplest terms, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes. Occupational therapy services typically include

- an individualized evaluation, during which the client/family and occupational therapist determine the person's goals,
- customized intervention to improve the person's ability to perform daily activities and reach the goals, and
- an outcomes evaluation to ensure that the goals are being met and/or make changes to the intervention plan.

Occupational therapy services may include comprehensive evaluations of the client's home and other environments (e.g., workplace, school), recommendations for adaptive equipment and training in its use, and guidance and education for family members and caregivers. Occupational therapy practitioners have a holistic perspective, in which the focus is on adapting the environment to fit the person, and the person is an integral part of the therapy team.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposed legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 203-430-0712 or @ president@connota.org should you require additional information.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Goszewski, MSM, OTR



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

SB 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM**. CHA supports this bill and respectfully requests that the bill be amended to ensure all hospital-based educational programs fall within purview of the legislation.

In order for hospital-based professional educational programs to be included in the *Learn Here, Live Here Program*, we suggest that the bill be amended as follows:

(a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, [may] shall establish the Learn Here, Live Here program. Such program [may] shall provide an incentive for graduates of a public institution of higher education, private university or college, hospital-based occupational schools, or health care training school, in this state, who qualified as in-state students and paid the in-state tuition rate, or graduates from a regional vocational-technical school, to buy a first home in the state. Persons who graduate on or after January 1, 2014, from such institutions, universities, colleges or schools may have their income tax liability, up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars annually, segregated into the Connecticut first-time homebuyers account established pursuant to section 32-4j, provided not more than one million dollars from all program participants may be so segregated in any calendar year. After a period not exceeding ten years after graduation, any amounts so segregated may be withdrawn by a participant for the purchase of a first home in the state. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development [may] shall make payments in accordance with this section from said fund to the [participant] participants. For the purposes of this section, "health care training school" means of medical or dental school, chiropractic college, school or college of optometry, school or college of chiropody or podiatry, school or college of natureopathy, school of dental hygiene, school of physical therapy or any other school or institution giving instruction in the healing arts.

Connecticut hospitals run various healthcare education-based programs that are an important part of advancing and updating healthcare workers' educations. Inclusion of hospital-based programs in the *Learn Here, Live Here Program* will help to ensure a supply of healthcare workers to meet the ever-increasing need.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.

Sharon Hallock
SB-78
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Good Morning Chairman _____, and distinguished Members
of the Commerce Committee, my name is Sharon Hallock and I am here today to
ask your support of SB 78 "Learn Here, Work Here" legislation as REALTOR and a
concerned resident of the State of CT. I live in Oakville and have worked in the
City of Waterbury my whole life.

I am very concerned over the loss of our young adults in CT. As a selfish mom,
who wanted my *only* child to live close to home when he left the nest, I got lucky!
Ten years ago, my son graduated from the Electronics Program at Kaynor Tech
High School in Waterbury and managed to find employment *in his field* in CT. It
was not a high level job but he makes a decent wage and has been able to support
himself and his family. Things were good then, he was able to move right into his
own condo and shortly after into his own home in Waterbury. Like, with almost
every other American, things got tighter, and he was forced to sell his home in
Waterbury to move to Oakville. Usually the suburb is more expensive than the
City, but the savings in taxes alone, paid for child care for his 2 children 3 days a
week so his wife could at least work part time. Fortunately, he still works for the
same company, but if that were to change at any time soon, he would be more
than likely decide to leave the State because there really is no other place in CT

that is more affordable and the jobs market in CT is very limited. With both kids now in public school, his wife still cannot find a suitable full time position in her field. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Hartford University and a graphic artist certification from Goodwin School...but still, she comes up empty in the job search, over and over. She could work in K-Mart or clean houses anywhere, so when push comes to shove...they tell me over and over that if Tony ever loses his job...they **are out of CT**. They know the cost of living in CT is one of the highest in the country and without enough jobs to support their average family lifestyle they would be forced to leave the state.

While my son was able to find work in his field after graduation...which kept him in CT, but he and his wife lost so many of their friends who attended public high school with them and/or went on to colleges across the country and ended up **never coming back to CT**. When asked why, they all concurred: that as much as they missed home, family and friends...they just saw NO OPPORTUNITY for them in their home state. Not enough job opportunities to support the cost of living in CT. Very little choices in the academic & business world...and now even the trades are slipping fast as manufacturing continues to leave. These are real life facts! Our trained workforce of tradesmen, business professionals and medical practitioners

used to be a “draw to CT business”. Now it is dwindling daily as our next generation and CT businesses literally head south for greener pastures.

Multiply this scenario by *even* half of the families in the State with sons and daughters graduating high school and going off to college...and I am sure the numbers will be staggering.

More specifically, this program would be very beneficial to the social and economic turnaround of the municipal areas such as the City of Waterbury, which has a UCONN branch, a Community College, a Technical High School AND will also host a Vocational Technical school in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the City ... with a vision of rebuilding a skilled labor force with placement and intern programs to keep our young adults in CT. The Learn Here, Work Here program will be an incentive to *at least* keep those students who go to school in CT by helping them buy a home in CT after graduation. This is huge. CT employers will benefit from strengthening our skilled work force. Society will benefit from the expansion of family units and the economy will be bolstered from putting more “workers” back on the tax rolls reducing the need for government assistance programs.

If my son moves out of state with my grandchildren, I don't think I will be satisfied with periodic visits and will *most likely* be following him as soon as humanly

possible...like many of my friends and family have already done. The sad thing is that no one *really wanted to leave* this great State of CT. If the graduates saw some kind of opportunity for a decent lifestyle, many would not leave and/or some would come back. Family units would remain intact and start to expand again.

So, in closing, I again ask your support of Raised Bill No. 78 to expand the inclusion private universities or colleges and health care training schools and **to direct** the Commissioner of DECD to use existing funding within its purview to establish a Learn Here, Work Here program to incentivize our young adults to remain in the State. A program with no teeth or funding will never happen, and I believe it is time that the State start investing in its dwindling work force before it is too late.



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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS® INC.

SB 78: An Act Concerning the Learn Here, Live Here Program. . . SUPPORT

Statement submitted to the Commerce Committee
 February 21 2012
 by Dan Keune

Good morning. My name is Dan Keune and I'm speaking today on behalf of the Connecticut Association of REALTORS®, comprised of 15,000 real estate professionals across the state. In addition to being a REALTOR® I'm chairman of the Ellington Board of Education (I do not speak for that Board today).

Senate Bill 78 would bring to life a piece of legislation approved in last year's regular session - - the "Learn Here, Live Here" program. In essence, if you learn in a qualified Connecticut Vo-tech school or public college, you are encouraged to live in our state after graduation through a unique housing trust fund. State income taxes paid by those graduates would be set aside by the State Treasurer in this fund to help buy their first home, provided of course it's located in Connecticut.

I said this bill will "bring the program to life" because, as presently enacted, "Learn Here, Live Here" is purely "permissive", and depends completely on the spending priorities of the administration.

Importantly, the "Learn Here, Live Here" concept was signed into law by Governor Malloy as part of the "Majority Leader's Job Growth Roundtable Act" (Public Act 11-140). Unfortunately, there was no mention of it at all in the Governor's \$330 million dollar housing proposal unveiled on February 1st.

Connecticut's REALTORS® urge that this initiative be given higher priority and reasonable start-up funding. Dollar-for-dollar, we believe it will yield a better return to Connecticut taxpayers than many other programs, especially in view of the "economic multiplier" effect created by the purchase of a home.

REALTORS® favor SB 78 because it will:

- help stem our States "brain drain" and incentivize young people to stay in Connecticut

-continued-

- help attract and keep job-creating businesses, many of whom consider our state's lack of affordable housing a competitive disadvantage in recruiting a skilled work force.
- and it will stimulate the private housing market, which dearly looks for signs of certainty in these uncertain times.

The bill does one other thing that needs to be run by your budget experts. The original law limits the types of educational institutions eligible for "Learn Here, Live Here". SB 78, however, significantly broadens that universe. We would hate to see this bill fail if that's identified as a fiscal problem. The expanded language is meritorious, but only if it does not hamper the program's start-up.

Thank you. Are there any questions?



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2014 for graduates from the schools so it's a program that's set up for future enrollment.

REP. HADDAD: Right.

REP. DAVIS: So I'm unaware if anybody has applied for the program currently. We can find that out from DECD as well or if even the application process has even begun. And I'm unaware of that fact as well. What we're trying to do is basically plan for the future for the state of Connecticut which is something unfortunately our state government has been failing to do for many a years and if we can set up these programs as early as possible, get the word out, let people know that you have a - - there is motivation for you to stay here after you graduate, I think it would be a very positive second step in this case because we were able to make a very positive first step last year.

REP. HADDAD: Last question. The Commerce Committee is hearing -- has also heard a bill to expand this program. In that instance the bill would increase the eligible participants to include private school graduates and graduates from private occupational schools. And thoughts that you would -- I mean I imagine that we will in this committee see that bill after it -- if and when it comes out of Commerce. Do you have thoughts about how these two bills would work together?

SB78

REP. DAVIS: Sure. This Bill right here doesn't -- doesn't allow for private colleges and universities because it's going on the framework that was passed last year which limited it to public schools and public universities and then public vocational

schools. As in my written testimony and my oral testimony, as well we would support bringing it up to private schools, private universities, private technical schools as well. I believe in Senate Bill 78 which is the one that went through the Commerce Department, it limited the program to certain occupations. I personally would be kind of against that because then we're kind of picking winners and losers and we're trying to fill certain slots, I guess, rather than necessarily allowing people to graduate from the university system work here in the state of Connecticut. Because many times you may go to college for one thing and then end up actually working in a field that's quite different and we'd want to capture as many young people as possible because they are the future of this state.

REP. HADDAD: Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Representative Janowski.

REP. JANOWSKI: Thank you.

Just a couple of questions. You mentioned it would go into effect on 2014 and it would apply to those graduates, beginning with those graduates. Is there a time limit as to if someone graduates at 2014, do they have four years, five years from graduation date to be able to do this or what's the cutoff date?

REP. DAVIS: Right now the system is set up for -- or at least in statutory language is for 10 years they'd be able to participate for 10 years after graduation and within those 10 years if they decide to take a position in another state but still participate in the program when they were here, that money will



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS® INC.

Statement on

Raised S.B. 238 An Act Expanding The Learn Here, Live Here Program

SUPPORT

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement

Thursday, March 8, 2012

By Timothy Calnen, Vice President Government Affairs

Connecticut Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

SB 238

On behalf of the 15,000 members of the Connecticut Association of REALTORS® we submit this testimony in support of S.B. 238 An Act Expanding The Learn Here, Live Here Program.

The "Learn Here, Live Here Program" was signed into law by Governor Malloy as part of the "Majority Leader's Job Growth Roundtable Act" (Public Act 11-140) which authorized the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services to establish the "Learn Here, Live Here" program. This well intentioned program is designed to assist graduates of a public institution of higher education in this state, who qualify as in-state students and paid the in-state tuition rates or graduate from a regional vocational-technical school in purchasing their first home in the state. Qualifying graduates may have their income tax liability, up to an annual maximum of \$2,500 placed in the "learn here, live here account". After a period of not more than 10 years after graduation the amount may be withdrawn for the purchase of a first home in the state.

The benefits of this program are numerous. Students are encouraged to attain higher education resulting in better employment opportunities. Adding to Connecticut's skilled workforce will assist in attracting new employers and meeting the labor needs of employers currently in the State. The program will result in more graduates remaining in Connecticut contributing to the State's economy. The purchase of a first home benefits the family buying the home, the community in which the home is located and results in economic multipliers derived from the transaction. Stemming the so called "brain drain" can do nothing but improve Connecticut's economic future.

(over)

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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

SB 238

March 8, 2012

Raised Bill No. 238 changes the segregated account's name established under the program from "the Connecticut first time homebuyers account" to "the Learn Here, Live Here account". More importantly the bill increases the maximum limit from all program participants in any one calendar year from one to ten million dollars.

A related bill, SB 78 An Act Concerning The Learn Here, Live Here Program, was the subject of a hearing by the Commerce Committee on February 21, 2012. The program adoption, as initially enacted, is "permissive" in that as noted in line 6 of RB 238 "The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development...MAY establish the Learn Here, Live Here Program." SB78 proposes to change the word "may" to "shall" thus assuring the establishment of the Live Here, Learn Here Program. This change is supported by the Association.

SB 78 also expands the educational institutions qualifying under the Learn Here, Live Here Program to include private universities or colleges or health care training schools. We commend this expansion however we would not want to see this bill fail if that expansion is determined to be a fiscal problem. The expanded language is meritorious, but only if it does not hamper the program's start up during these fiscally challenging times.

In conclusion, the establishment of the Learn Here, Live Here program will provide significant returns on the "investment" in terms of retaining Connecticut's youth, job retention and growth and improved overall economy in Connecticut.

Thank you. Are there any questions?



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Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 519.

THE CLERK:

On page 34, Calendar 519, Substitute for Senate Bill 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LIVE HERE -- LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM, favorable report by the Committee on Finance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee, Representative Berger, of the 73rd, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

Representative Berger, you have the floor.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the Special Session in October, we had a bill before us that enabled college graduates to be able to put

money -- set aside money to be able to purchase a home --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Berger, will you just wait for one second.

The Chairman of the Commerce Committee is trying to take out a bill. Would you please pay attention.

Representative Berger, you have the floor.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker.

The Live Here, Learn Here Program helps students save towards a down payment on their first home in Connecticut by segregated a portion of their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate. The law limits the amount that may be segregated for each student to \$2400 per year and the amount that may be segregated for all students to \$1 billion for year. The program is currently open to students who graduate from a regional vocational technical school and in-state graduates graduating from the state colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is possession of amendment LCO Number 4408, I ask that he call and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4408, which will be

designated Senate Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 4408 Senate "A" offered by Senator LeBeau.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection?

Hearing none, Representative Berger, you may proceed.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment that's before us makes the underlying bill permissive and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "A." Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Berger.

Will you remark on the amendment?

Hearing none, I will try your --

Representative Camillo of the 151st.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Could the good chairman repeat the purpose of this amendment again? I just got it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

I'm sorry. Repeat what, sir?

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

The amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Berger, I think you're being asked to repeat your summarization of the amendment.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes, certainly, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the ranking member of the Commerce Committee on the House side, the amendment before us and infinite wisdom of the Senate allows for the underlying bill to be permissive to the Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Does this follow what we did last year in the same spirit making it permissive? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it does go basically from

a "shall" to a "may" but it also allows for more -- more colleges to come into the system. So even though we would like to be able to go to a little bit farther level, it is a small win for us this year by allowing a large number of institutions to potentially graduate students to be able to come into the program. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So -- and I appreciate the answer from the Chairman of Commerce.

So am I correct, through you, Mr. Speaker, in saying that what we did last year has not been implemented by the Commissioner of DECD. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker.

They are currently reviewing the process of implementation and they are hopeful that they will be able to implement this project moving forward with the passage of the legislation this evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

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Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Did we -- do we have any time frame as far as going forward when this would be implemented both last year's version and this year's version? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

Yes. Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is language in the bill that allows for this new group to be incorporated into the structure of the per year and total year amount, potentially by January 1 of 2014. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the gentleman for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the amendment before us?
Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Opposed, nay?

The ayes have it. Senate Amendment "A" is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Camillo of the 151st.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of this bill. We've heard over and over again that in Connecticut, 24 to 34 year olds leave this state at a faster clip than any other in the union, and it's something that we've been talking about for several years. And as Representative Berger said, if we can get this implemented in the next several months, this would, we believe, help in really keeping a lot of our homegrown people, and people in our institutions -- education institutions in this state, which would certainly go a long way towards our end product here in Connecticut. We have a very educated citizenry and this will -- this is a good piece of legislation. It

enjoys a lot of support and I certainly hope we have unanimous support on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Just briefly, I also rise in very strong support of this bill. As I've talked about before on the floor here, I taught for six semesters at UConn and I remember how distressed most of my students that they would not be able to stay in Connecticut because they felt they couldn't afford to live here. And this bill expands the program to reach -- to students who have an education in specialities that will offer good paying jobs. They're people we want to keep here and this is a very important incentive that we hope will help us to do that. So again, I strongly support the bill and I urge others to do the same. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Rovero, of the 51st, you have the floor, sir.

REP. ROVERO (51st):

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, but I have a comment for the future. I would hope that next year we would bring back an amendment or a new bill that would not discriminate against students that live in Connecticut, come back in work in Connecticut in the summers and then when they graduate from college, come back here and work, but they attend colleges outside of the state of Connecticut. And if you think about it, most of the students that go to schools -- public schools in Connecticut are subsidized by the taxpayers. The ones that go and get their education out of the state of Connecticut are not subsidized by the taxpayers at all. So I think it's very discriminating for us turn around and give a tax break to people who have the subsidized education and penalize the ones that do not have a subsidized education.

So I hope that maybe next year we can bring back a bill that helps those students that live here, educated out of state, come back during the summer and work here, and eventually take jobs in the state of Connecticut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Hwang, of the 134th, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in strong support of this bill and I want to thank the Chair of the Commerce Committee, as well as the ranking member, in their wonderful work in this endeavor. I think as we talk many times in the chamber it's about jobs, jobs, jobs. And this is an opportunity for us to be able to retain the best talent that exists in our state as they pursue education not only in a public school setting, but also in a private school setting. Our hope is to keep as many talented young people as we can in our state. One of the biggest losses for our state is the brain drain of young talent. I simply believe that this bill will go a long way to keeping those talents in our state and building our labor force to be effective, as well as a powerful one.

So I rise in strong support and I urge the Chamber's support as well. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended before us? Will you remark further on the bill as amended before us?

If not, 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.

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 78 as amended by Senate "A" in concurrence with the Senate.

Total number voting	146
Necessary for adoption	74
Those voting Yea	145
Those voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The amendment -- I'm sorry -- the bill -- the bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate.

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Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And also, calendar page 23, Calendar 125, Senate Bill 329, AN ACT CONCERNING SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACTORS, Mr. President, I would move to refer that item to the Committee on Planning and Development.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, also as the next -- next two items if -- would like to mark go and then call Calendar page 23, Calendar 118, Senate Bill Number 78, and that one, Mr. President, there is an intent amend that bill and then make a committee referral. And also, Mr. President, after that item, if we could on calendar page 19, Calendar 421, House Bill 5107, which is a House bill which we intend to amend and then return to the House of Representatives. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 23, Calendar 118, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM, favorable report of the Committees on Commerce, Higher Education and Appropriations.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

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SENATOR LEBEAU:

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

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 LEBEAU:

Yes, I will very briefly because we want to amend this bill, Mr. President. I just want to say what this bill -- give the context. This bill passed last year to establish the Learn Here Live Here Program to try to keep graduates of our universities and colleges in Connecticut to stem the brain drain which we were experiencing and what this -- what the underlying bill does is that -- it changes -- broadens the -- those schools that are potentially impacted by this and those students to include -- it opens the program to any student graduating from a public or private college in Connecticut or health care training school located here. The latter includes medical or dental schools, chiropractic colleges, optometry schools or colleges, podiatry schools or colleges, occupational therapy schools, hospital-based occupational schools, nature -- naturopathy -- that was Doc Gunther, if I remember correctly -- schools or colleges, dental hygiene schools, physical therapy schools and other healing art schools or institutions.

That's what the underlying bill does, Mr. President, but right now, we have an amendment. If I could call it, and be -- Amendment LCO Number 4408, if the Clerk could please call it and I be allowed to summarize.

Senator Coleman in the Chair.

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THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call LCO 4408.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4408, Senate "A" offered by Senator LeBeau.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

I move passage.

THE CHAIR:

The question before the chamber is adoption of Senate "A."
Do you care to remark further?

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Yes, I would. Simply -- this is a simple amendment.
The -- it's a simple amendment, Mr. President, that
changes the program to allow the commissioner of DECD to
have some discretion in implementing the program and I move
the -- I move -- I move the amendment, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Do you care to remark further on Senate "A"?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And, Senator LeBeau, this is great -- a great underlying
bill and the amendment I'm curious about. I know it's an
idea -- that underlying that is -- is an idea that you like
and I think it's one that absolutely should be tried and
experimented with, but with resources so scarce these

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days, I'm just curious what the reasoning was behind the amendment which changes the word "shall" to "may." Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Through you, Mr. President, that's a great question, Senator Frantz, because you have the answer in your question. It is a matter of resources. We have the fiscal note on the bill as it is. If we change the -- take out the brackets around "may" and strike "shall," this becomes discretionary. It puts it back -- in a sense, we broaden the program to include certain health occupations, but we -- so we've done that and at the same time what we're doing is we're getting rid of the fiscal note and then we're going to send this over -- my intent is to send this to the Finance Committee. I believe it is the Majority Leader's intent to send this to the Finance Committee for a referral and I think we have taken care of the fiscal portion of the bill and I think we can all find it amenable at that time, I hope.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, I appreciate the answer from Senator LeBeau. I would like to see it still "shall," but I understand your rationale and your logic and I urge my colleagues to support the whole notion -- the whole concept of this Live Here -- Learn Here and Live Here Program because I think it's one of the sharp tools in the toolbox that we can -- we can use in the future to guarantee that our youth and younger people are going to, in fact, going to stay around in Connecticut, which is a great place to live, but also a very expensive one. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, a question to the proponent. Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, to Senator LeBeau, what is the reasoning behind the underlying bill? Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Well, the bill broadens those professions and training schools that can take part in this program. That's what the bill does. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Would you also say that the underlying bill is to promote or try to keep these individuals, these students, these young people when they graduate to promote them staying here in Connecticut? Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would say that the current law does that, which is the current language. The bill, again, is much more narrow in terms of broadening those schools, yes, to keep them

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here in the state of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So going back to, you know, Senator Frantz's question, if the idea in the underlying bill and the law is to promote the opportunity for these individuals to stay in Connecticut and, you know, make their homes in Connecticut, as I think we all understand that the young people are leaving our state in droves. Then with your amendment, Senator LeBeau, are we -- what are we doing? I mean, we're not -- are we no longer promoting this policy? Are we selling the policy short? Are we not fully implementing the policy? I mean, from what it looks like it's almost as if we're giving up on the policy by changing it from a "shall" to a "may." Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Through you, Mr. President. Thank you.

What we are doing is restoring in this part the original language that we passed last year, which was "may" establish the Live Here, Learn Here -- Learn Here, Live Here Program. Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I guess my concern -- and we all understand the fiscal impact of many of the bills that we see before. There are sometimes where you can make good investments and bills

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will have a positive effect on the citizenry that we represent, especially when we have the ability to keep young people here in the state of Connecticut, one's that have gone through our schools and wish to make their lives in our state. So we may do a lot of things. We may be here till 5 o'clock. We may here till 10 o'clock. It may rain tomorrow. It may be sunny. It may -- you know, the Celtics may win the championship. I don't know. But my point is if we're going to create a program, why aren't doing that as opposed to saying that we may do it? So with respect to Senator LeBeau, I will be opposing this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Do you care to remark further on Senate "A?" Do you care to remark further on Senate "A?"

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

When the vote is taken, please taken by roll.

THE CHAIR:

The gentleman has requested a roll call vote. When the vote is taken, it will be taken by roll.

Are there any further remarks to be made on Senate Amendment Schedule "A?"

If not, the Chair would ask the Clerk to make the announcement. That 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:

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Have all members voted? Senators, please check the board to make certain that your vote has been properly recorded. If all members have voted and all votes are properly recorded, the machine will be locked.

Would the Clerk please take and announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Senate Amendment Schedule "A" for Senate Bill 78.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	25
Those voting Nay	11
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Senate "A" is adopted.

Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I would move that the bill as amended be referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is to refer to Finance, Revenue and Bonding. Is there objection? Is there objection?

Seeing none, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, also, I move that all of the bills that we have made motions to refer to various committees be -- up to this point, be immediately transmitted to the committees and not held by the Clerk.

THE CHAIR:

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Madam President, if the Clerk might now call Calendar Page 25, Calendar 118, Senate Bill Number 78.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number -- I'm sorry -- Calendar Page 25, Calendar 118, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM. It's amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A"; and favorable report of the Committees on Commerce; Higher Education; Appropriations; and Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau, good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Good after -- good afternoon, ma'am. Good to see you again in your lovely outfit.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. And I love --

SENATOR LeBEAU:

-- and --

THE CHAIR:

-- your tie, too.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

-- I think it's apricot; I'm not sure. And I do have a -- a nice, bright tie on.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, you --

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SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, very much.

THE CHAIR:

-- do, sir.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

I move acceptance of the joint committees' favorable report and passage of the bill as amended.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President.

We had this bill in front of us before. We amended it to -- to take off the fiscal note. What we're going to do with this bill, what this bill will allow the Commissioner of DECD to do is to expand the Live Here -- the Learn Here, Live Here program, which is -- which I think most of the members of the Circle know is a program to help incent young people, young college graduates to come to Connecticut and to stay in Connecticut, to give them a savings program that can -- they can save substantially on a down payment on -- on a house. That is one of the areas that we've heard in the past that is something that could help with the demographic loss that we have of this key age group, these -- these key, innovative people. So with that, madam, I -- I move the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

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Madam President, I rise to support the bill and also to recognize the Commerce Committee and its Chair but also Minority Leader Larry Cafero, who for some of us that served in the House know that this is a longtime mission and vision that he's had to try to keep those graduates in Connecticut. If they get a job here and are able to save some funds, everyone knows that for most, their single, number one investment and opportunity to gain some assets and equity would be in a home.

And so this was taken on the road. Many of us went from colleges to colleges to see what the reaction would be, and it was overwhelmingly endorsed by the students there, and they did affirm that if they had this opportunity, they might very well consider staying in Connecticut. So it's been a long time coming, and many changes may have taken place. And certainly under those economic times it's even harder to do, but it's very critical, given that we lose that age population, that 25-to-34-year-olds probably more than any other state. We labelled it a "brain drain," which we need to stem in many different ways, and this is one good way. So for that, I thank the Chairman of -- and the Commerce Committee, in general, for promoting this bill and highly endorse it.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Boucher.

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

I vote for salmon.

THE CHAIR:

You win, sir. Your tie is very handsome too.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

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Oh, thank you. Thank you, very much. Would you like to hear what it says on the back of it?

THE CHAIR:

Not right now, sir.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Okay.

THE CHAIR:

I'll talk later.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Fair enough.

I -- I stand also in -- in favor, not only of the -- the -- the bill here but the concept. And while I -- I think I always laugh when I see the words "shall" stricken and replaced with the word "may," thereby eliminating a fiscal note, we know that if this program is successful -- and it will be -- there will be a fiscal component to it.

But let me add this, that it's a -- it's a -- it's a great investment to make. After all, at the end of the day, if we're losing our young people who are educated here in our wonderful educational institutions, leaving, going to other states, we are huge losers, not only in the sense that we're losing the young vibrancy of -- of younger people and their great ideas, but also ultimately they become taxpayers to us, and -- and we sure could use that right -- right about now. So we need to -- to stop any sort of hemorrhaging that has occurred and is occurring today. This is one tool in the tool chest that I think will resonate, as Senator Boucher pointed out before.

Younger people are aware of this program and they're very excited about it. They haven't been able to take advantage of it yet but they are very excited about -- about doing that. These are big investment decisions that they're making in terms of their first dwelling

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that they may purchase or -- or buy somehow or rent, but they're going to get benefits through this that will certainly keep them around and give us a much better chance as a state to improving our performance.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I just rose to say Nantucket red; that's what I was going to go for.

In all seriousness, Madam President, I, too, will support the bill. I -- I am disappointed that we changed the shall to a may, because I do believe it's a good program, and I actually wonder what we will ultimately be accomplishing here because I really want to see the program go forward.

And I hope that we can talk about this again next year or whenever we get an opportunity in the future so we can see the results of the program and if we are putting our best efforts into the program.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kane.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

Thank you, Madam President.

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To the Senators who just spoke, I agree with you. And I -- and I'd be -- and I'm hoping that over the next seven or eight months and before we come back in January -- hopefully some of us will be back in January -- that we can work with the commissioner and actually get this program started, because we're not saying don't do it; we're saying you may do it.

And this is a great program, and what it does -- and specifically what the bill does, also -- and Senator Boucher, thank you for your work, and we recognize Representative Cafero's work on this -- but -- but what it -- it -- what this bill specifically does is it broadens the -- it restores, actually the language that was there before, which was a may, and -- but what it does do is it broadens out those areas to the health fields, which is in line with the initiatives that we've taken, that we took last year for the University of Connecticut and -- and in other actions that we took. So this -- this bill makes, I believe, all the sense in the world.

If -- if there's no objection, Madam President, I'd like to add this bill to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 163, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 80, AN ACT EXPANDING TEST BED AUTHORITY AT THE CONSTITUENT UNITS OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION; favorable report of the Committees on Commerce, Higher Education, and Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LeBEAU:

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SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, if we might have the Clerk now list the items on the Consent Calendar and then proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could you please -- we can stand at ease for a second, sir.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 2, Calendar 179, Senate Bill Number 84; on page 4, Calendar 261, Senate Bill 394; page 25, Calendar 118, Senate Bill 78; on page 26, Calendar 163, Senate Bill 80; page 27, Calendar 210, Senate Bill Number 360. Also on page 27, Calendar 221, Senate Bill 376. On page 30, Calendar 320, Senate Bill 368, and on page 31, Calendar 339, Senate Bill 286.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote? And the machines will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate; will 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 closed, and I'd ask the Clerk to please call a tally.

mhr/ch/gbr
SENATE

108
May 4, 2012

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total number Voting	35
Necessary for Passage	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent, not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passed.

I'm going to stand for a point of personal privilege, sir. Senator Guglielmo, who is that beautiful young lady you have with --

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

Yeah. Well --

THE CHAIR:

-- you today?

SENATOR GUGLIELMO:

-- that's who I'm going -- that's who I'm going to introduce, Madam President. Thank you, very much.

Oh, you got to sit right here with me; okay, come on. This is Kate McAvoy, from Willington, and Kate won the poster contest for the Department of Transportation for safety, and we had a nice reception down at the DOT, about two weeks ago. And we didn't get a chance to give Kate her citation, so we wanted to do it here today. So she was kind enough to come up to visit with us. And this is Kate McAvoy. Kate won the prize for the contest for grades K through 2nd grade, and I wish that we would all give her a nice welcome here to the State Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Kate, thank you. Kate, it's always good to see you. Come back and visit us again; okay, Kate?