

PA13-126

HB5425

House	1301-1304	4
Senate	4050-4057, 4143-4144	10
		14

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
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1026 - 1360**

Calendar Number 50, on Calendar Page 6, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancements, House Bill 5425, AN ACT ALLOWING ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBERS OF CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE TO WAIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE STATE RETIREMENT PLAN.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Willis. Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Mr. Speaker, nice to see you up there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Nice to see you, Representative.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Madam Speaker was prettier.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

I understand that.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

I move acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The question is on acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Would you, would you respond further?

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker; nice to see you there.

With the passage of this bill, new adjunct faculty members of the Charter Oak State College may waive participation in our State Employee Retirement Program within 60 days of their employment. This change would treat the adjunct faculty of Charter Oak in the same manner we treat adjunct faculty members at our regional-technical colleges.

The waiver is irrevocable -- blah -- and unless the faculty member is offered a full-time, as a -- job as a full-time employee with a state institution. I urge passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The question before us is the passage of the bill.

Will you remark further? Remark further?

Representative LeGeyt, of the 17th.

REP. LeGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill makes a remedy to a bill that we passed last session, about the same situation, and our oversight was not to include Charter Oak. And so this bill makes that correction and improves the whole, improves the whole bill.

mhr/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 10, 2013

So thank you, very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you comment further on the bill? Will you comment further on the bill?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will members please take their seat -- seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber, immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast?

If all members have voted, the -- the machine will be --

A VOICE:

Wait. Whoa -- whoa. We have a -- Ayala just walked in. She doesn't even realize she's voting.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Have all the members voted?

If all the members have voted, the machine will

be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 5425.

Total Number Voting 141

Necessary for Passage 71

Voting Yea 141

Voting Nay 0

Absent, not voting 10

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill passes. The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 41.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, on Page 6, Calendar Number 41,
Substitute House Bill 6322, AN ACT CONCERNING THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
TECHNICAL AND MINOR CHANGES TO THE INSURANCE AND
RELATED STATUTES, referred to -- by favorable, a
Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on
Insurance and Real Estate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The Chamber recognizes Representative C. Wright.

REP. C. WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Higher Education Committee, and I urge passage as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Madam President, if there's no objection, I ask that this item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also on page 5, Calendar 343, House Bill Number 5425, AN ACT ALLOWING ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBERS OF CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE TO WAIVE MEMBERSHIP AND A STATE RETIREMENT PLAN. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Well, thank you, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes, thank you, Madam President.

This bill simply allows the faculty at Charter Oak State College to waive membership in the state retirement plan, just as members of the faculty at our other state universities and the University of Connecticut may. I urge passage.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I rise to support the bill, but I believe that for those that might have a question about why we would go about doing this, through you, Madam President, if I could ask the good Chairwoman of the Higher Education Committee to explain why the ability to be waived out of the pension system is a good thing.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes, I'm happy to do it, and I thank the Ranking Member for her question, and always for her collaboration.

When you are an adjunct faculty member at a state university or Charter Oak, you know, often you don't make much money at all, and you don't have an opportunity really to collect a pension because of the number of hours you work, et cetera.

So this simply allows them to waive that membership and those fees. And if they like they have other retirement options.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, one further question, through you, if I could. Does this give them more flexibility, in fact, to take on a role as a adjunct professor if they've retired from some other program.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President, through you.

Yes, indeed, it does, and I thank the good Ranking Member for her question.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I urge adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

This -- this sounds like a good bill, and I appreciate Senator Boucher's questions to Senator Bye. I think there's a few more details I would like to know, and I don't even know if Senator Bye has the answers to these, but if I could try, through you, Madam President, I would appreciate it.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WELCH:

Senator Bye, I believe the reason for this bill, as you stated, was that there are individuals who are adjunct professors, maybe teaching, I would assume, a class a semester or maybe one class a year, and therefore aren't making a sufficient amount of income to participate within the state pension plan.

And to help me better understand that plan, through you, Madam President, what -- what would their -- or what -- I guess before this bill, what is their required contribution that tends to be a barrier to entry for them?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

I'd ask that Senator Welch please repeat the question.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch, would you please?

SENATOR WELCH:

Sure, absolutely. I apologize. It probably wasn't that artfully worded.

So if the stated purpose is to allow these people not to participate in the plan because it's essentially cost prohibitive based on the amount of money they're making, what -- what is the required -- what is the required contribution now that is too expensive for them to participate?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

As I understood it, I'm not an expert in this area, but as I understood it, what happens now is there's a required participation when you are a state employee. And if -- if you aren't making much money, you don't make enough to reap the benefits of that pension. You're putting money into a system that you'll never be a beneficiary of.

So this allows them not to do that, to say I don't want to be a part of that retirement system. I simply want to have other options for my retirement. And adjunct faculty often have other jobs. We're not allowed to be adjunct faculty at our state university systems because of this job, but often they have other jobs and they teach at night. A lot of teachers teach at night.

So this is often a second job for -- for these folks. So this just allows them not to lose those dollars to a system they'll never really be able to participate in.

Through you, Madam President.

gdm/gbr
SENATE

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May 31, 2013

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Bye, for that explanation. I can appreciate that. It probably is difficult to put a dollar amount in response to my question, but -- but I get it and it seems like good policy, affordability of retirement plans is -- is a really, really good thing, especially in a society today where people are constantly moving around.

It's not like it was in most places 40, 50, 60 years ago where someone would take a job and stay with that company forever. And obviously this is a unique situation, where we have individuals that this is not going to be their primary source of employment or income, but it's somewhat supplemental.

One -- one question that I have out of curiosity, through you, Madam President, would be this sounds like it's somewhat of a change to the system that we have in place now, and I'm curious as to whether or not this would require us to open up the contract that SEBAC currently has to make this change.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

As I understand it, this is really a conforming change, because these employees would currently have a claim that we have the same position that others in the state have, and they already have this ability to opt out.

So we're simply sort of making the playing field level for all employees of the state with these sorts of positions.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

So I think I understand the answer, and the answer is that this is not going to require a change to the bargaining agreement that's currently in place.

Is that correct?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes, that is correct.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Okay. Thank you, Madam President.

I appreciate Senator Bye's answer. This is a -- a good bill and I will be supporting it.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Madam President, if there are no objections, I ask that it be moved to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, seeing no objection, so ordered

Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 506, substitute for House Bill Number 6491, AN ACT REQUIRING A REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT REGARDING ADMINISTRATORS. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I urge acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

What this bill does, which has already been passed by the House, is it requires the University of Connecticut, the Board of Regents, Institutions and Charter Oak State College to report to the legislature the ratio of administrators compared to peer institutions around the country. Also to report the salaries of the administrators at these universities.

The genesis of this bill is really some of the concerns around salaries and commensurate compensation

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Calendar page 29, Calendar 653, substitute for House Bill Number 6699. And, finally, Madam President, on Calendar page 31, Calendar 664, substitute for House Bill Number 6689.

I would like to add those items to our Consent Calendar and, and now call for a, I would ask the Clerk to list all of the items on the Consent Calendar and then proceed to a vote on that first Consent Calendar.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Today's first Consent Calendar, on page 5, Calendar 341, House Bill 6364; Calendar 343, House Bill 5425; Calendar 346, House Bill 6322; Calendar 347, House Bill 6547; and on page 6, Calendar 349, House Bill 5513; page 9, Calendar 450, Senate Bill 921; on page 13, Calendar 506, House Bill 6491; Calendar 515, House Bill 6235.

On page 14, Calendar 524, House Bill 6380; on page 16, Calendar 559, House Bill 6508; page 17, Calendar 563, House Bill 5617; Calendar 569, House Bill 6485; and on page 19, Calendar 588, House Bill 6549; on page 23, Calendar 614, House Bill 6587; Calendar 616, House Bill 6678; page 25, Calendar 629, House Bill 6662; on page 26, Calendar 633, House Bill 6576; and on page 27, Calendar 640, House Bill 6550; on page 28, Calendar 650, House Bill 6659.

And on Page 29, Calendar 653, House Bill 6699; Calendar 655, House Bill 6339; page 31, Calendar 664, House Bill 6689; Calendar 665, House Bill 6355; page 34, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 911; and on page 40, Calendar 514, House Bill 5725.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the first Consent Calendar. And the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call in the Senate on the first Consent Calendar of the day.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, thank you. Good. There we go.

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar,

Total Number Voting 34

Necessary for Adoption 18

Those voting Yea 34

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.