

PA13-141

HB6452

House	1365-1374	10
Labor	585, 940, 941, 1075	4
Senate	4220-4228, 4250-4252	12
		26

H - 1154

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 5
1361 - 1694**

working diligently welcomed a new member into his family. He and his wife, Dr. Marilyn Katz, proudly welcomed Jack Anson Ritter into the world on Friday, April 5th.

Mr. Speaker, the day before, we had the charity basketball tournament, in which Representative Ritter was supposed to play in, and we fully understood why he wasn't able to make it. And it looks like there's hope for Jack, because at 7 pounds, 5 ounces and 19 inches long, maybe he'll have the height to participate in one of the games with us.

So, again, congratulations to Representative Ritter and his lovely wife, and I wish them all the best.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader, and congratulations, again, Representative Ritter.

The Chamber will return to the call of the Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 89.

THE CLERK:

On Page 10, Calendar Number 89, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on Labor and Public

HB 6452

Employees, Substitute House Bill 6452, AN ACT
CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRONIC FILING OF
QUARTERLY UNEMPLOYMENT TAX RETURNS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The dais will recognize Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance
of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage
of the bill.

Will you remark further, Representative Tercyak?

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

The title of this bill pretty much says it all.
This will -- means that beginning with the first
calendar quarter of 2014, all employers who are
already subject to the state's unemployment law or
their reporting agents will be required to submit the
quarterly wage reports, which they already submit, to
the Department of Labor, but now in electronic form.

Both requirements only apply to employers with 250-or-more employees. Although employers are exempt from the electronic reporting requirement if they can show that they are technologically incapable of meeting it.

The bill does allow applying for a waiver for electronic reporting and the electronic reimbursement requirements with a written request on the DOL-prescribed form. And the Labor Commissioner must grant the request if based on the information submitted she finds the requirement would cause an undue hardship.

Thank you, very much, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you comment further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Smith, of the 108th.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

One of the concerns we had in the committee regarding this bill was for those parties or persons who were unable to potentially file quarterly by electronic means, and so there was some concerns

there.

Section 5 of the bill addresses that, as indicated by the Chairman that if there is an undue hardship where the employer is unable to file electronically, they can make an application by a form prepared by the Department of Labor to seek a waiver. That decision is final but, nonetheless, the provision is there if the person did or the employer did not have a computer or there was other undue hardship for why they could not file electronically, perhaps the computer crashed, they could seek a waiver and avoid a penalty, which is part of this bill if they fail to do that.

I understand this bill now applies to all employers as opposed to 250, but I just wanted to confirm that with the Chairman. So if I may propose a few questions, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Yes. Representative Tercyak, could you prepare yourself, please?

Representative --

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

I'll try --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

-- Smith.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

-- Mr. Speaker.

REP. SMITH (108th):

So the, just so I'm clear with the bill right now, as I understand current laws, any employer with 250-or-more employees has to file electronically, and now we are removing that requirement such that any employer who files already would have to now file electronically, subject to a waiver. Is -- is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. Employers that presently have to file will now have to file electronically as the good Ranking Member stated.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And, through you, Mr. Speaker, is there a \$50 fine -- I don't think it's in this bill but I think

it's coming up in a subsequent bill -- that would be imposed for those who fail to file?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, very much.

I do believe in the -- there is a related bill that we will be addressing at a, at a later time -- I don't believe we'll be addressing it today -- that will be including, in particular, a fine for not cooperating with other filings. And that will be, that related bill does have a \$50 fine for employers who fail to submit the required quarterly wage reports. That's not in this bill. It is related.

I apologize for not making them one bill and saving us a vote, but thank you, very much, for the question. That is correct information.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And just for legislative intent, the term "undue hardship" can be interpreted in a number of different ways and -- and perhaps we can just have the Chairman give us a few examples of what he may consider undue hardship for -- for those out there who's seeking to find out how they might apply with this waiver.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you, very much.

Being from the fine State of Connecticut with all the natural disasters we've had in the last couple of years, the first idea of undue hardship is when the hurricane comes and knocks down your business.

Other parts of undue hardship would be although a large employer, there are actually probably still some employers who are presently submitting their information in writing who don't have a computer with a capable of submitting it electronically. For them, it would be undue hardship, especially in the beginning when it's a new requirement; maybe after a year or two, a successful employer with that much notice shouldn't consider it undue hardship. But

particularly in the beginning, when somebody can actually hand write their note saying, but I don't have a computer, that should qualify as undue hardship.

And then there are always individual circumstances that might arrive -- hate to predict somebody else's problems -- but the Commissioner, I am sure, would be reasonable in interpretations of undue hardship. If there are any questions, I'm sure she wouldn't hesitate to think good thoughts about people and, realizing we're talking a year at a time, be generous with the changes we're proposing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Mr. Chair -- Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the good Chairman for his answers.

I stand in support of the bill today. The main concern I had in committee has been addressed with the waiver provision, and I think those employers out there who will not be able to comply with the act, this Section 5 allows them a provision to avoid any

type of penalty. It also saves the state a small amount of money, which is always a good thing in my mind, so I urge the Chamber to adopt the bill and pass it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you comment further on the bill before us?

Will you comment further on the bill before us?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

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

If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. And the Clerk will take the tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

mhr/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

161
April 10, 2013

Bill Number 6452.	
Total Number Voting	131
Necessary for Passage	66
Those voting Yea	122
Those voting Nay	20
Absent and not voting	9

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar Number
134.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 134, on Page 14, Favorable
Report of the joint standing Committee on General Law,
House Bill -- I'm sorry -- House Calendar Number 134,
House Bill Number 6211, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFERING
AND TASTING OF DISTILLED SPIRITS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The dais recognizes Representative Baram, of the
15th House District.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
PART 2
365 - 714**

2013

1 February 26, 2013
 tk/gbr LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES 2:00 P.M.

CHAIRMEN: Senator Osten,
 Representative Tercyak

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Osten, Gerratana,
 Markley

REPRESENTATIVES: Tercyak, Smith,
 Esposito, Kinger, Miner,
 Williams

SENATOR OSTEN: Public hearing for February 26th to order. We're going to remind everybody that you don't need to read your whole testimony. We would prefer that even public officials keep it down to the three-minute timeframe. And we're going to -- I don't -- is Senator Loony here? We're going to go on to Commissioner Palmer. You're up.

SHARON PALMER: Well, good afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and member of the committee, I guess. There are several bills on today's hearing agenda, which I testified in support of last week. And I just want to reiterate my support for these numbers, and these are new numbers on the bill. Our Senate 926 and 27, House 6449, 6450, 6451, and 6452.

HB 5686 HB 5701

HB 6151 HB 6432

HB 6433 HB 6434

SB 927

And let me go on to the others that are up before you today. And they're all mainly technical bills. The first one is 909, Unemployment Conformity. This is part of our legislative package, and we need to have conformity with federal law. A state's failure to implement the penalty that's in this legislation would be ground for initiating conformity proceedings to deny certifying the state for grants. So we need to be in compliance with the penalties that

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
PART 3
715 - 1077**

2013



CONNECTICUT

TESTIMONY OF
 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
 BY
 ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
 REGARDING

HB-5686, AAC MINIMUM BASE PERIOD WAGES AND ELIGIBILITY FOR
 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS;
HB-5701, AAC MONTHLY REDUCTIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION;
HB-6451, AA IMPROVING THE TIMELINESS OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S
 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX OPERATIONS;
HB-6452, AAC THE REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRONIC FILING OF QUARTERLY
 UNEMPLOYMENT TAX RETURNS

BEFORE THE
 LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
 FEBRUARY 26, 2013

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut supports HB-5686 & HB-5701, both of which are pieces of legislation that aim to address issues with unemployment compensation benefits in the state and the burden that such an over-stressed system places on our state's small businesses. These common-sense bills pave the way for a healthy adjustment of eligibility and benefits, respectively. It must be noted, that Connecticut's small businesses have been straining under high unemployment taxes for some time now and have also suffered from recent surcharges. In order to ease this burden on our state's job creators, NFIB/Connecticut recommends that significant changes need to be made to the eligibility and administration of the state's unemployment benefits system in order to maintain long-term solvency and to ensure the fiscal health of our state's employers. In addition to the measures contained in HB-5686 & HB-5701, this could include additional efforts to target waste and fraud in the system and also to tighten up the work-search requirements for those receiving benefits. NFIB therefore urges passage of these two bills.

NFIB/Connecticut has series concerns with HB-6451 and opposes the bill as currently drafted. This legislation would particularly burden small and start-up businesses by mandating notification to the Department of Labor within 15 days of opening a small business, and subjecting non-compliant businesses (even if inadvertent), to significant fines and penalties. This 15-day requirement is unnecessary and should at the very least be expanded to allow small business owners the opportunity to get their business up and running before they may inadvertently miss such a tight deadline imposed by the Department of Labor. Many other states allow for a much more reasonable timeframe. For example, in Illinois the requirement is 30 days. Florida has an even more generous requirement, allowing the filing in the month following the calendar quarter in which employment begins.

NFIB/Connecticut also has serious concerns with HB-6452 and opposes the bill as currently drafted. Many small employers are accustomed to and actually prefer to make such filings manually and through the use of hard copy paper forms. Even in this day and age, there are small businesses that do not have computers and do almost everything manually or through the use of paper forms. Many other states also recognize this reality, which is especially true for the smallest of small businesses, and as such online filings are still optional for small businesses. For example, in Iowa, it is recommended that filings take place online, but it is not mandated. Colorado, Georgia, Pennsylvania all allow for paper filing, as does New Hampshire, which also allows for filing via facsimile. Admittedly, while the statutory sections being amended does allow for an exemption of sorts from the filing requirements if an employer "demonstrates to the satisfaction of the administrator that it lacks the technological capability to report such information in accordance with this subdivision", the burden should not be placed on the business, but rather the statute should contain a blanket-exemption from the electronic filing mandate as contemplated in this bill for small businesses under a certain size.

It is important for legislators to remember that small businesses must operate differently from large businesses; they do not have human-resources departments to track the changing standards and mandates that affect their workforce and workplace and handle all of their administrative matters. NFIB urges the legislature to simplify employment laws and processes for small business, eliminate burdensome mandates and prevent the expansion of cumbersome regulations that punish the small businesses that create the majority of Connecticut's jobs. Provisions such as those contained in HB-6451 and HB-6452 unfortunately run contrary to this goal. Therefore NFIB urges rejection of both aforementioned bills; unless they can be amended accordingly to take into account the concerns and unique needs of small businesses.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. Gjede", is located in the upper right corner of the page.

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
Assistant Counsel, CBIA
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
February 19, 2013

**Testifying in Support (with changes) to HB 6452 AAC The Requirement For Electronic Filing of
Quarterly Unemployment Tax Returns**

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA supports the labor department efforts to find efficiencies through more electronic filing. However, we are concerned that not all of Connecticut's businesses have kept the same technological pace as the department. The business community would be able to support this bill provided the attached waiver provision was added to protect the few businesses that do not have the technical know-how or capability to comply. The language used to draft this waiver is based on a waiver used by the Department of Revenue Services to excuse individuals from the payment of taxes by electronic funds transfer.

We urge the committee the support HB 6452 provided the attached waiver provision is included.

S - 665

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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2013**

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4130 - 4472**

I would ask that the bill as amended be placed on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the, if the Clerk would now
proceed to Calendar page 6, Calendar 352, House
Bill 6452.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 352, substitute for House Bill
Number 6452, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT FOR
ELECTRONIC FILING OF QUARTERLY UNEMPLOYMENT TAX
RETURNS, Favorable Report of the Committee on Labor
and Public Employees.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

Good evening.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Good evening, 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, ma'am?

SENATOR OSTEN:

Yes, Madam President.

This bill is a Department of Labor bill that is very basic in nature. It's a bill that requires employers to electronically submit their quarterly wage reports for employers with 250 or more employees. It also has a mechanism for employers who do not have the technology available to them to write a letter on the appropriate form 30 days beforehand to be exempt from filing the forms electronically, and such waiver is good for a year.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

I simply want to say that this is a bill that I think is a, is a solid idea. It came from the Labor Department presented to us as a way for them to streamline their operations and to save money, something I very much want to encourage state agencies to do. And I think there, it's currently required of large employers, and I think the, the alternative of being able to file in case this creates a hardship will give protection to the small businesses that might possibly have a problem with electronic filing. So I, it, it received almost unanimous support in the Labor Committee, and I will be supporting the bill as well.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

If I may, I do have a few questions for you to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I appreciate Senator Markley's comments and agree that it's -- well, let me back up. I do appreciate Senator Markley's comments, and I do think it's a good goal to encourage efficiencies within the state agencies. But I think we need to make sure that we are not doing it at the expense of, of others. And so the questions that I have for Senator Osten are along those lines. I understand we have a system that's already in place.

I understand that if you're an employer with more than 250 employees, you are required to participate in this system. I understand that this system requires electronic filing and is therefore more efficient than non-electronic filing. And I understand that this bill has a process by which a company may apply for an exemption to the requirement to file electronically. And if I may, through you, Madam President, ask Senator Osten what essentially is that process? What does the department expect to receive? Who in the department expects to be making that decision? And do they have any expectation as to how many applications they might be receiving?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

So I'll answer the good Senator's questions in reverse. There is no clear number of people that would be requesting an exemption. Many small businesses are very technologically equipped. And right now, all employers have to submit the, the quarterly wage forms via fax generally. So there is no expectation of a specific number of people. There is a form that they would fill out, and it is the, it would be signed off by the Commissioner in the Department of Labor. I'm certain it would be workers that would make the, the recommendation to he or she, in this case, she. And I think I missed one of your questions.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I, maybe I should start in a different place, and, and that, I guess, would be if Senator Osten could please describe for me the process that a company uses today when they fire, excuse me, when they file electronically, if, if she knows.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Today, someone who has to fill out a quarterly wage report gets the report generally via e-mail. If they don't get it by e-mail, they get it by regular mail. They're required right now to return it on the paper form either through the regular mail, or generally people fax it up to the Department of Labor.

THE CHAIR:

I'm sorry.

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Osten.

So if one was to, if you're an employer right now with more than 250 employees, and you're required to file electronically, is, is there a portal over the Internet that you currently go to? Is that the process?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Osten.

So essentially we're not talking about any new software. What you need is a computer and Internet access. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Yes.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch. Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

And, and I appreciate that that is a, a very low bar, and I am thankful for that. I also appreciate, and I think this bill considers that there might be some companies that, that don't have that. And in the 31st District in the City of Bristol, I could think of a lot. We have a lot of, lot of landscapers, a lot of small contractors, many of whom have computers and Web access, some of whom do not. And so I guess what I would like to know from Senator Osten, what would be the expectation on them with respect to informing labor that they cannot meet this requirement?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

I believe I heard your question correctly. You want to know what a small business would have to do in order to not file electronically?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Yes.

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Thank you.

They would have to file on a prescribed form their, the, and list their hardship merely saying that they are a small business that has employees, that they're required to file the wage reports, and they do not have the ability to file electronically. And that form is one that they would attain through the Department of Labor.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

And then does the bill before us set forth any standard that would apply to labor with respect to their review of such a hardship application?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Senator Welch, through you, Madam President, the bill does not say what criteria the Commissioner would use in regards to determining whether or not that request would be approved. It does, it does give that discretion to the Commissioner and the Department of Labor.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

And then if the person who completes the form and is stating to have a hardship and finds themselves in a position where labor within its discretion denies their application for hardship, is there a process for that aggrieved party?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

There is not an appeal process currently in this piece of legislation.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

So as I understand the legislation before us, if the Department of Labor says you must file electronically, then you must file electronically. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

That would be correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator --

SENATOR OSTEN:

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

I'm sorry. Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

I thank Senator Osten for her time and shedding some light on the, the bill before us.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

If there is no objection, I would move this to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, seeing no objections, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk, do you have any more on your agenda?

THE CLERK:

On page 21, Calendar 604, substitute for House Bill Number 6553, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE, Favorable Report of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees.

Madam President, if the other items marked go would now be marked passed retaining their place on the Calendar, and if the Clerk would read the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on that second Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On the second Consent Calendar for the day, page 6, Calendar 348, House Bill 5767; Calendar 352, House Bill Number 6452; also on page 6, Calendar 354, House Bill 6388; on page 7, Calendar 368, Senate Bill 900; page 18, Calendar 573, House Bill 6524; page 20, Calendar 591, House Bill 5727; Calendar 592, House Bill 5979; Calendar 593, House Bill 6523; Calendar 594, House Bill 6596; page 21, Calendar 605, House Bill 6567; page 23, Calendar 615, House Bill 6638; on page 24, Calendar 618, House Bill 6433; and Calendar 619, House Bill 6482; on page 33, Calendar 125, Senate Bill 906; and page 39, Calendar 422, House Bill 5718.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote. Oops, hold on a moment.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President.

Just I wanted to indicate did we get the item on Calendar page 33 --

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

-- Calendar 125, Senate Bill 906?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah.

SENATOR LOONEY:

I appreciate it and move that we vote the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Consent Calendar 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is open.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

No problem.

Senator Maynard.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the second Consent Calendar for today,

Total Number Voting	34
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. The Consent Calendar, second Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, first of all for a, a journal notation.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, Senator Coleman was absent today due to illness. We hope that he will be back with us next week, missed votes today. And also for a point of personal privilege, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you.

Madam President, two of our wonderful caucus colleagues on the, the Democratic staff in great