

**PA13-294**

HB6515

House	2524-2559	36
Program Review	59	1
Senate	5343, 5400-5401	3
		<b>40</b>

**H - 1157**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

18  
May 7, 2013

Bill Number 6508:  
Total Number Voting 142  
Necessary for Passage 72  
Those Voting Yea 142  
Those Voting Nay 0  
Absent and Not Voting 8

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 419.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 419 on page 27, Favorable Report  
of the Joint Standing Committee on Government  
Administration and Elections, Substitute House Bill  
6515, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE CONCERNING MAXIMIZING ALTERNATIVE REVENUE.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, Madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

You have the floor, Madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 6363. If the Clerk would please call and may I be permitted to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 6363 which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

Amendment "A", LCO 6363, offered by Mushinsky, et al.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The memb' -- the gentlewoman has sought leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

Please proceed with summarization.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This Amendment, which we did at the request of Office of Policy and Management, changes the requirement for reporting of the state's efforts at maximizing alternative revenues. Instead of including this report as part of OPM's annual mid-November state revenues report to Finance and Appropriations, the Amendment makes the report a separate report but due on the same day and to the same committees.

I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question on the floor is adoption of the Amendment. Will you remark? Will you remark further on the Amendment?

Representative Carpino of the 32nd District.

REP. CARPINO (32nd):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for her Amendment. I stand in strong support of this. It's also important for the Chamber to note that the Amendment includes a provision having OPM put this report on their website. As we go forward, more and more of our constituents are accessing this information particularly in the volumes of data that

we have on the website so I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

Will you remark further on the Amendment that is before us?

Representative Sawyer of the 55th.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I too support this Amendment because when we post these important facts online we share it not only with those people in Connecticut but across the country. There has been more and more interest between legislatures now that information is more easily shared. We're not -- we don't just rely on wonderful organizations like NCSL and CSG and (inaudible) but people are going online and looking for where the information is, when the studies come out, so I appreciate this very much.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

Would you care to remark further on the Amendment? Would you care to remark further on the Amendment before us?

Representative Cafero of the 142nd.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a few questions, though you, to the proponent of the Amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Mushinsky, please prepare yourself.

The Major -- Minority Leader has the floor.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Mushinsky, through the Speaker, I'd like to ask, and I realize that this Amendment is amending the underlying bill, but here's what I read. In line 9 I read that OPM is going to post the report about OPM's efforts to maximize alternative revenues. What does that mean?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative (inaudible).

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it's primarily grants. In our report we discovered that the state ranks 18<sup>th</sup> which is slightly above average among states in per

capita federal grants received. It -- it's -- it's okay but we would like to do better and we think with the recommendations in this bill we can perform better which becomes very important as the state is facing a difficult budget.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the gentle lady's answers center on federal grants. However the language in the bill does not make that -- or at least in the Amendment that's before us does that -- not make that distinction unless I'm missing it.

It seems to say quote efforts to maximize alternative revenues. Now that could mean, I presume, since we as a state have several sources of revenues, like fees and penalties and taxes and tolls, et cetera, that OPM would be required, under the language of this Amendment, to issue a report showing how they quote maximize alternative revenues.

Am I reading that wrong or is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker -- Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, for legislative intent, I can affirm that we are primarily talking about grants.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think I would feel a lot more comfortable if it said federal grants, efforts to maximize our ability to apply for federal grants.

But since we're talking about federal grants, let me ask this question, through the Speaker, through you, Mr. Speaker, are these grants grants that require us as a state to expend money, for instance Medicaid, in order to get the grant? Are these outright grants? Are there distinctions and does this Amendment make that distinction?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the Amendment does not make the distinction but there are multiple varieties of grants and one would be completely 100 percent funded. Another type might be a match as in Medicaid.

Another source of alternative revenues is waivers. The state can sometimes pursue waivers and enhance their budget that way.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, through you, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the word on line 9, maximize, I interpret this Amendment to send a signal -- in fact it's not even a signal it's a pretty direct directive, if you will, that OPM should maximize in this case it says efforts for -- or alternative revenues, it should maximize alternative revenues.

Now in the earlier question you answered that what you meant was, though it doesn't say, federal grants. But as you just explained, federal grants take many shapes and sizes. Some are matching grants which

requires the state to expend dollars to get dollars and some are outright grants wherein the federal government just gives us money.

Is it fair to say that the policy of this Legislature, if we are adopting this Amendment, is to encourage or task the Office of Policy and Management with maximizing those federal grants regardless of whether or not it requires an expenditure on the state's part?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about all grants. The Office of Policy and Management currently has a consultant to work with the state agencies to try to improve grant performance -- grant -- receiving performance and one of the techniques that's used is to coordinate the agencies to work with each other and pre -- present a united front in order to receive federal funds.

The feds more and more are looking for collaboration and having someone assigned for this responsibility in Connecticut will improve our grants

received which will improve the bottom line in the state budget.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ladies and gentlemen, here's the problem I have with this Amendment. Number one, it says maximize alternative revenues. It is not specific on what we would like the Office of Policy and Management to maximize. Do we want to encourage the Office of Policy and Management to maximize our fees, to maximize our penalties, to maximize our taxes?

Maybe for some they do, I know I can speak confidently for many we do not because many of us believe we don't have a revenue problem in the State of Connecticut, we have a spending problem.

So if we take Representative Mushinsky's word, which I do, for legislative intent, that's all we're talking about is federal grants, I still have a problem because many, if not most of those federal grants, require us to spend money to get money.

And what this says is not that we're just going find out what's out there and then decide what we apply for, it says that we want to maximize getting these grants which could potentially mean maximizing our expenditure to get the maximum amount of grant.

Now for me it calls to mind that dilemma we all run into from time to time. This past weekend I was in the market for sneakers or athletic shoes as they're now called. I went to Bob's Stores. They had this great deal that said buy one and get one free, what a bargain, what a bargain.

On certain shoes they said buy one and get the second pair for half price, what a bargain. It was a sale. It would encourage somebody to take advantage of that sale. Here's the problem. I don't know about you and I'm dating myself, ever check out the price of these athletic shoes? Marone, some of them go for 125 bucks a pair.

So in this particular case if I wanted to avail myself of the bargain, I had to come up 125 bucks and I either got the second one free or for half price. So in the case of the half price deal, I had to shell out about 187 bucks to get two pair of sneakers. What

happens if you don't got the 187 bucks? You shouldn't buy the sneakers.

Sometimes we get these offers from the federal government that say if you spend a buck we'll give you back half. It sounds like a great deal like the sneakers but what happens if you don't have the buck?

That's what happens every day in our state government. That's why in a few days we, as a Chamber, are going to be faced with voting for a budget that tries to close a \$1.2 billion deficit for next year and a \$1.5 billion deficit for the year after and a lot of that is because we spent money we didn't have to get the deal, the 50 percent back.

So let me go back to the sneakers. You see if you don't have 127 bucks you shouldn't be spending 187 bucks to get two pairs of sneakers. That's the problem.

And what this Amendment says is not only should we do it we should maximize our efforts to do it. Are you kidding me? We can't afford what we're doing now so we're going to go out and figure out how to spend more money so we can get maybe 50 cents on the dollar.

What this Amendment should say is we should all be aware of the bargains out there and depending on

our situation at any given time, depending on our state economy at any given time, depending on our job creation or not at any given time, we, as the Legislature, should decide whether we want to spend money to get money.

This seems to make an assumption that we already want to do that, that we already want those two pairs of sneakers.

Ladies and gentlemen we got to think about what we're doing. The bill that's before us is well intended but it's sends a signal. You see long after we're gone is the official policy of this state to maximize every penny we could get from the federal government regardless of cost? No there are many states out there that make conscious decisions through their legislature that, even though that bargain sounds great, they can't afford to make that initial expenditure.

It's tempting, those two pairs of sneakers look great but if you can't afford the first one, you shouldn't buy them. That's the kind of mentality we should have when we look at legislation like this. That's the kind of mentality we should have when we consider federal grants that are available to us.

So in summary, I have two problems with the Amendment before us. One it does not specify that we're only talking about federal grants. Yes the gentle lady has indicated that, for legislative intent, but legislative intent only comes into the picture if there's a lawsuit and quite frankly other than that this bill reads that OPM's job is to report to us how every year they maximize their efforts to find alternative revenue.

And the second problem I have, even taking into consideration Representative Mushinsky's representation that this only deals with federal grants, is the word maximize because many times it's not appropriate for us to maximize our efforts to get that federal fund. Many times it's not appropriate to buy that first pair of sneakers just cause you're getting the second one at half price.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

I'd like to point out, through you to Representative Cafero, that Section 1 of the bill, which this Amendment is modifying, is -- specifically mentions develop a system to track the state's federal and alternative grant funding and two to work in consultation with other agency -- state agencies to pursue specific federal revenue maximization efforts.

So it does say in the underlying bill that we're talking about federal grants that the state wishes to receive. One of the big disappointments to education reformers in our state was our failure to achieve a Race to the Top grant which would have started us on the road to improving education in our inner cities a lot faster and the federal revenues were -- would have been very much welcome by all of us in this Chamber.

That's the kind of opportunity that we would like to improve upon. Now this bill has the support of the CBIA, it had the unanimous support of Program Review and Investigations bipartisan and the unanimous bipartisan support of Government Administration and Elections Committees.

So I think the feeling of our bipartisan group is that every dollar we can get from the federal government to improve education or life in our cities

or the environment or recreation or whatever else it may be means we don't have to raise it here in Connecticut and I urge your support for this bill -- for the Amendment, Mr. Speaker.

(Assistant Deputy Speaker Altobello in the Chair)

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Mushinsky.

Further on House A? Further on House A?

Representative Shaban of the 135th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise in opposition to this bill much as the good Minority Leader cited. I mean one of the prime examples of what he was describing is this mess we're in now at the hospitals. I mean it was a couple of years ago we decided we were going to take away money under the promise that federal money was going to come back and match them and back and fill and everything was going to be hunky-dory, well wouldn't you know here we are a couple of years later and we're a whole lot of money behind.

So you know this concept -- this constant concept that it's federal money, don't worry about it, the feds will -- you know will -- will rescue us on this stuff. That's what gotten this state and a lot of other states in a whole lot of problem. It's our money. It is our money. It's -- it's our job, as a Legislature, to keep our money in our state to take care of our people and our enterprises.

So again while this bill may be laudable in -- in just making sure there's not something else out there, what it does do -- the -- the unintended consequence I think, as Representative Cafero said, is it's just going to promote this concept that, you know what, there's -- there's free money out there somewhere. There's free money coming from Washington, D.C. and every time we do that we seed a little bit more of our sovereignty, we seed a little bit more of our obligations away from the people of Connecticut.

So while the bill may have laudable purposes, I can't support it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Shaban.

Further on the Amendment? Further on House "A"?

If not, I'll try your minds

All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Those opposed? The Ayes have it. The Ayes have  
it. The Amendment is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended?

Representative Miner of the 66th you have the  
floor, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I might, just a couple of questions to the  
proponent of the bill please.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There have been comments and questions about how  
this process might work and I understand that this is  
-- involves reporting but, in addition to that, the  
Minority Leader made some comments about if the state  
can't afford to do certain things is it still a

benefit for us to be trying to maximize federal dollars.

And so through you, if the gentle lady knows, how would that be reported in a circumstance where the expenditure is required to maximize those dollars? If those were double what we make this year, how would that be reflected in the report? What's the intent?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, November 15<sup>th</sup> of every year there's a financial report presented to Appropriations and Finance. I know you are there, Representative Miner, as am I and we hear the good news and bad for the year, and on that same day we will also get a report on the federal grant seeking efforts of OPM and the agencies reporting to OPM which will be part of the record of -- of the financial state of the state.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And maybe I didn't get the -- the point exactly right. So in the LEA program, for instance, we expended dollars in the anticipation that we would get some federal money back. More often than not we talk about providing services for which the federal government than would be obligated to pay us some percentage.

And so my question to Representative Cafero's point if we're -- if we're borrowing money let's say on a regular basis to pay our bills, does that enter into this report anywhere if we have to borrow the money to maximize these federal funds? That's my point.

I mean I understand they make a report but how would it be reflected in the report if we've over-expended our budget allocation let's say? Will that be part of this report as well?

Through you.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, we didn't micromanage the report. We just directed the Office of Policy and

Management to give us the report on their status of their efforts and I think the appropriate thing to do for Finance and Appropriations would be to ask questions as this report is -- is brought in to us on a November 15<sup>th</sup> finance report to the state.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentle lady for her answers.

Today in Appropriations we had a presentation made about federal disaster funds for Hurricane Sandy and I think we're one of three states plus the City of New York that were in the process of providing information to the federal government for which we would receive, I think in this case, about \$71 million dollars.

So if we -- if we miss the deadline on something like that, would that be part of the report if we -- if we failed to get our paperwork done in time and failed in that case to get our fair share of federal dollars will that be the kind of thing that the gentle lady imagines will be part of this report?

Through you.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, again we did not micromanage the report. They will have to give us the information on how well they've done. Then we're free because it's -- it's public information and it's also on the web. We're free to compare it to our neighbor states, to other states similar to us, and see how we did in comparison.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentle lady for her answers.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on the bill as amended?

Representative Carpino of the 32nd District you have the floor, Madam.

REP. CARPINO (32nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A number of questions, through you, for the proponent.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Fire away, Madam.

REP. CARPINO (32nd):

To the good woman, I have some questions on Section 1, particularly lines 2 and 3. The system to track the state's federal and alternative grant funding, will that system include our expenditures charted against the rate of return that we receive?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, as I have previously answered, we're not micromanaging the report. If you wish to see that information, I think the appropriate thing is to contact OPM either at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting or prior to that and ask that that information be included in the report.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And furthermore in that report will our success rate be included?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, we did not specify that that be included. If the Committees wish that in the report, I'm sure they will speak up when the report is presented.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Carpino.

REP. CARPINO (32nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's unfortunate that we need to pass a law obligating OPM to do this. We should already be tracking our success rates, our expenditures, our rate of return and frankly when we're looking to maximize funding through grants it's something that we should have articulate numbers for going forward. Unfortunately we should have had them going past.

With a staff of approximately 125 people, I would hope that OPM can do this although we put in within

available appropriations being mindful of the budget crunch that we're in. I respectfully suggest that OPM find those appropriations with their staffing levels.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this because we do have an obligation to all of our constituents to seek out all of the alternative methods that we can to fund the required services here in the State of Connecticut and I urge your support.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Well just to sum up, the Committee found that the state has a decentralized structure when pursuing federal funding which we understand arose because each type of agency deals with a separate -- separate federal agency and there are differences in federal programs.

However, the trend in recent times is coordination and collaboration among agencies and among stakeholders and that will be improved by this

legislation which designates a -- a contact person for federal grants in each state agency and then liaisons to ensure that Office of Policy and Management has the information they need to maintain a grants tracking system and report to the Legislature and our constituents on how well we are doing with this effort.

So I urge everyone's support for the bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Mushinsky.

Representative Lavielle of the 143rd on the bill as amended.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, Madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I agree with the Ranking Member, Representative Carpino, that we -- it's -- it is good this has been brought up. We ought to be doing this and it's something of a surprise that we don't. So that concept I have no problem with but I do have a couple of questions for the proponent if I may.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

You may, please proceed, Madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In lines 6 though 9 there is a reference to the state agencies that are to be identified by OPM as needing a liaison with OPM for -- to deal with federal and alternative funding.

Is it -- I'd -- I'd like to know if it's the gentle lady's opinion that there are, at the moment, people in some of our agencies who have that spare time available to do this?

For you -- through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, some of the agencies are too small to need a liaison which is why we did not say all agencies, we said designated ones, but some agencies, for example Education and Energy and Environmental Protection, could -- could form a relationship with their federal counterparts and bring additional dollars into the state.

So for those size agencies it's very important that there be a designated person. It doesn't mean a new person whose only job is this grant seeking. It means that there will be one contact person who is the human connection to their federal counterparts in Washington who can build those relationships to get funding to Connecticut which helps our state budget.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the gentle lady for her answer. I -- I do understand the concept of liaison. I'm just somewhat -- it -- it's interesting to note that some of our agency employees do have some free time available to do something like this because I was under the impression that we were quite strapped but I do understand the concept and the necessity.

Another question I have is whether there are any provisions to -- within OPM or somewhere else to prioritize the kinds of grant funding that would be, to use the word in the bill, maximized? Is there an order of priority of precedents, things that are more

important than others, and if so, how is it determined?

Through you.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speak -- Mr. Speaker, the Office of Policy and Management is the umbrella agency that deals with the liaisons from each separate agency and I'm going to assume that OPM is directing the agency liaisons to pursue, in particular, the large competitive grants which will really help our state's citizens.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you.

And finally I'm assuming that -- well to -- to use the example that the good Representative used a little while ago of the Race to the Top funds, had we received those, some of that was for new activity. Some, however, would have been for things that we have to pay for anyway and they -- that they -- I --

actually I'm probably mistaking. Race to the Top was not a supplanting grant but there are some that are and when you receive the funds then something that you've budgeted and funds you've appropriated are supplanted by the grant funds you received.

And I wondered if we were anticipating any mechanism to deal with the receipt of revenues that we'd receive in this manner to then reallocate some of the funds already budgeted as an appropriation.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that may be something that happens in the Appropriations and Finance Committees when they receive the report. I think the -- the point here is to gather information on how well we're doing as we pursue federal dollars. Bring it back to the two Committees of cognizance and also Program Review and Investigations who is interested in a general way in improving our performance and then the two Committees of cognizance on the budget can make that determination.

But first we have to get the information. It has to be coordinated. It has to be easily read and

understood and we shouldn't have to go searching for it. So that's the intent here.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And before I make a final comment I would like to say I -- I appreciate the efforts of -- of Representative Mushinsky and -- and Representative Carpino and their committee to -- at bringing this up. It's -- it's certainly something that we need to do and I have no -- no problem with that.

However I must say that I never cease to be stunned by the attention that this General Assembly gives to its eternal -- seemingly eternal quest for revenues when spending continues to go up and up and up and right now we're staring down the throat of a budget proposal that asks us to spend almost 10 percent more in the next two years and we're having to borrow to do it.

So I will just end by saying I would be far more reassured to see this Chamber and the entire General

cah/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

49  
May 7, 2013

Assembly focus as much of its attention on controlling spending as it does on maximizing revenues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Madam.

From the 86th District, Representative Candelora, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just had one brief question if I may to the Dean of the House.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In -- in lines 3 through 5 we are you know seeking to make sure that the State of Connecticut gets as much of the federal money as it may be entitled to and my question is that in the pursuits of getting this federal revenue these agencies are limited to pursuing it for the policies that are established within the four corners of the budget that is adopted as opposed to them being able to pursue

avenues that may not have been given express approval through the legislative process.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, this whole process is coordinated under the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and that will be -- I mean I'm not in the Executive Branch but I -- I am anticipating that it would work through the Office deciding what is high priority, what is lesser priority and the liaisons in each agency communicating through the Office of Policy and Management.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And so those priorities that are established are the existing I guess federal programs that we have. So when concerns are raised that, you know, this could be an avenue for the Office of Policy and Management to pursue new avenues that might not have been

approved by the Legislature, that isn't what -- what this bill intends to do. It merely intends for them to pursue the existing policies that have federal funding associated with them and to maximize that revenue that we get through the -- through those programs?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to improve the give and take between the Executive Branch and the Legislature on grant pursuit of federal grants, to pursue the coordination among agencies and between the agencies and the Office of Policy and Management so that we are more successful.

We -- we rank 18<sup>th</sup> right now, would like to see that a little better and like our state to be even more competitive than it is now.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the answers. I think it certainly does make sense and we've talked about it through many different committees in Planning and Development and through Finance of trying to coordinate our efforts so I -- I think that certainly this bill makes sense.

Thank you.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Hopefully it will make sense and dollars.

Further on the bill as amended? Further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please return to the Well of the House. Members take your 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.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

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

Would the Clerk please take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker.

Total Number Voting 143

Necessary for Passage 72

Those Voting Yea 125

Those Voting Nay 18

Bill Number 6515 as amended.

Absent and Not Voting 7

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The bill passes.

Are there any introductions?

Representative Selim Noujaim from the Brass City,  
you have the floor, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon to you,  
sir.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

It's so good to see you up there, Mr. Speaker.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPREAKER ALTOBELLO:

**S - 658**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL. 56  
PART 7  
1827 - 2152**

cah/meb/gdm/gbr  
SENATE

333  
May 14, 2013

If I -- excuse me, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Oops sorry, Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

If I came back the next day, that would be another transaction.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Sorry, Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

And under the reporting requirement I guess now they're required to report, upon request and under this bill, they would be required to report weekly and that could be electronically?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Hartley.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Yes indeed and so, you know, technology we should use it to make our lives easier. Where an individual has the ability to report electronically, and some prefer to do that, it may be more expedient for them to do that. However if a local licensing authority required an electronic reporting, then the vendor I'm assuming would have to meet the requirements because once again the -- they are the licensing authority.

cah/meb/gdm/gbr  
SENATE

390  
May 14, 2013

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, we are about to conclude the day's business with a vote on the Consent Calendar. Prior to that, Madam President, there is one item that needs to be removed from the Consent Calendar because it is in need of a correcting Amendment apparently and that is the item on Calendar Page 9, Calendar 303, Senate Bill 1018. If that item might be removed from the Consent Calendar, marked passed temporarily and, as I said, we are awaiting a correcting Amendment on that - on that matter.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And then -- and if the Clerk would then proceed to call the items on the Consent Calendar before proceeding to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

If we might stand at ease for just a moment before the Clerk proceeds.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

cah/meb/gdm/gbr  
SENATE

391  
May 14, 2013

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Before proceeding to a vote on the Consent Calendar there is one item to be removed from the Consent Calendar that we should then proceed to an immediate roll call vote on and that was Calendar Page 23, Calendar 486, Senate Bill 1140. If that item might be removed from the Consent Calendar and -- and called for an immediate vote.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, ask you to call Senate Bill 1140 for immediate vote -- vote, have a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

Roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.  
Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please report to the Chamber.  
Immediate roll call vote in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is open.

Senator LeBeau, Senator LeBeau.

If all members have voted, if all members have voted the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Senate Bill 1140.

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those Voting Yea	35
Those Voting Nay	1
Those Absent and not Voting	0

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PROGRAM  
REVIEW AND  
INVESTIGATIONS  
1 - 186**

**2013  
INDEX**



TESTIMONY OF  
PETER M GIOIA  
VP & ECONOMIST  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 5, 2013  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day My name is Peter Gioia. I am the VP and economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut Our membership consists of firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses employing fewer than 50 people

CBIA supports the following bills which ought to improve the state's fiscal performance HB 6515 An Act Establishing the Office for Maximizing Alternative Revenue, and HB 6514 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning Medicaid Payment Integrity.

HB 6515 professionalizes a single point of grants administration and development in Connecticut This is needed to ensure Connecticut gets its fare share of grant, particularly Federal grant, and opportunities We would hope that the office would be assigned metrics for performance. Properly administered the office should pay for itself many times over each and every fiscal year

HB 6514 should shine a light and issue a report on department performance in preventing, tracking down and recovering Medicaid fraud. This is a huge budget area and unfortunately is one where fraud can exist. This should help strengthen efforts to root out such fraud.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.