

SA13-12

HB6485

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 9
2743 - 3085**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	10

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 274.

THE CLERK:

On Page 46, Calendar Number 274, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Public Employees, House Bill 6485 AN ACT CONCERNING A BARBERSHOP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Representative Johnson, you have the floor.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Pause for one minute, madam, while we get the bill. There we are. The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Will you remark, madam?

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REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill requires the State Apprenticeship Council in conjunction with the Commissioner of Public Health to study the feasibility of establishing a barbershop apprenticeship program in the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has amendment LCO Number 6425. Could you please ask the Clerk to call the LCO 6425.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 6425, which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 6425 introduced by Representative Johnson.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentlewoman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection? Is there objection? You may proceed with summarization, madam.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What this Amendment does is, it removes from the original bill the idea of having the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

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as part of the Advisory Council in setting up the
apprenticeship program.

I move its adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the
Amendment that's before us? Representative Srinivasan
of the 31st.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good evening, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

What this Amendment does makes a good bill even
better, and I urge adoption on both sides of the House
on the Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Ziobron of the
34th.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in support
of the Amendment. I want to thank the Latino
Commission, though, however, for helping bring this
bill forward, but I think it's important as a matter

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of public policy that it is handled through the appropriate measures, and this Amendment does that.

So while I thank them for their input I'm looking forward to supporting the bill with its removal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you very much, madam. Do you care to remark? Do you care to remark further on the Amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of House Amendment "A", please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted. Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The bill establishes that a report will be provided by January 1, 2014 and the Council and the Commissioner will report to Public Health and Labor Committees establishing the program,

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making a decision about how long it might take to establish the program and the educational and professional requirements that will be required for participation.

I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam. Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Srinivasan of the 31st.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. We heard in the public hearing that we have a shortage of barber and chairs are empty in our state, not because lack of customers but because lack of barbers.

And so what this bill does amended is, address that issue so our people are not moving to neighboring states for training and eventually employment, so I think it behooves us to visit this issue and do what is right a) for our barbers and b) for our state.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a few questions to the proponent of the bill. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

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Please phrase your question, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do we know how many programs are being considered in this task force or study that we'll be doing? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

I thank the gentleman for his good remarks and I'm not familiar with how many programs there will be. I know there are a number of schools that provide for barbershop training. But what's happened is, the cost, we've heard in testimony almost \$18,000 to get the license.

And so it makes it possible for someone to obtain the training and also go to school and work and pay for the training, so that's basically the gist of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I've said earlier when I spoke on the Amendment, I urge support for this bill as it is amended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Sanchez of the 25th.

REP. SANCHEZ (25th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle to really support this bill. It's so important for our communities. Particularly, it's going to create jobs as well, so this is an important bill and I support it and I thank Representative Johnson and the Public Health Committee for following through with this bill.

We've been working on this almost a year or two so thank you very much.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Do you care to remark further?

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

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.

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SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?
Will the Members please check the board to make sure
your votes are properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will
be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Representative Ritter, for what purpose do you rise?

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to have my vote
recorded in the affirmative. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Your vote will be so recorded. Will the Clerk
please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6485 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting 140

Necessary for Passage 71

Those voting Yea 139

Those voting Nay 1

Those absent and not voting 10

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 283.

THE CLERK:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 8
2384-2726**

2013

SENATOR GERRATANA: Good morning.

WERNER OYANADEL: Before we start the testimony, we asked the Clerk if it's okay that I can bring some speakers with me.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Okay. Please proceed.

WERNER OYANADEL: Good morning Senator Gerratana, State Representative Johnson and all Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Werner Oyanadel. I am the Acting Executive Director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. I am here today to speak in support of the Commission in reference to HB Number 6485, which is AN ACT CONCERNING A BARBERSHOP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

The bill before you today, if adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly would allow for a study to be conducted in consultation with the Public Health, Labor Department and the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission with the purpose of finding out the feasibility of establishing a new barbershop apprenticeship program within the Department of Labor.

In specific, the report shall include three questions that are listed in the bill, one of which is to inform the Legislature of the history of apprenticeship programs in the state.

Number two, the period of time that will be required to establish this new program and finally, what are the educational and professional experience that will be required for the program?

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is very supportive of the language of the bill.

However, and we ask that you vote in support of it.

But we also are asking that we actually establish the program now. We already have all the answers to the questions that you requested and we submitted all those questions' responses within our testimony.

I don't want to probably go over all the language in response to the questions, but in a summary manner, I can tell you that in Connecticut in terms of the background history, Connecticut used to have an apprenticeship program for barbers in the past and it was eliminated back in the 1980s with the realization that all the barbershop licenses are now conducted at the college level and at the school level.

And the, we also know that in Connecticut we had different types of barbershops in the past. We had an apprenticeship type. We had a sort of a middle level type of barbershop and a master barbershop as well. All these three types of levels of barbers were eliminated back in the 1980s.

But today, we only have one level, which is a master barber type of license, which is the only one that we have in Connecticut.

When we asked the Department of Labor, what would be the timeframe to go back and establish this barbershop apprenticeship program, they told us that they are ready to roll out with this type of program today.

They have several types of models that include all the schooling that will be required, all the type of practice hours that are going to be required in order for that to be taken.

So basically, they have several types of programs ready to present to the state and I submitted several of those recommendations that are already available in the Department of Labor for your review.

Finally, in regard to the three questions that you have, and I have a detailed summary, an explanation of all those three points is in regards to the, what will be the educational and professional experience requirement.

And again, we have submitted a response to all those questions in our testimony and again, to try to save time, I'm not going to go over those.

But I want to in a few moments explain to you why this is so important to us. We have several barbershops across the state in the areas of Waterbury and the areas of Willimantic where the efforts or the focus for the Department of Public Health is to close down those shops that are practicing the trade without the license.

And I guess there are two options of how to deal with this. We can actually close all those programs and you know, close all those opportunities, or, we can find an alternative, an alternative that could actually help those individuals continue to practice their trade while they're getting their schooling in the evening.

We know from the experience that we are collecting from those agencies and those shops that were closed, the majority of them are Latino-based, and many of those barbers have been doing their trade for more than 18 years.

So we are suggesting to the Committee, with all the respect that we need to have for the Committee. We are also very concerned about, and

nobody practicing a trade that cannot produce the results in terms of providing the public safety that is required, but we just feel that we have an opportunity to rather than close down the shops, to give them an opportunity to continue to work, and this is why we're here.

We have several business owners that own barbershops that told us through the process of this public hearing and before, that they would be more than happy to receive young barbers to be apprentices of the trade, and we have individuals that are from the Willimantic area that are also willing to actually go into these programs in order to be able to continue to practice their trade.

And so, Madam Chair, that answers my testimony.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, sir. Actually, I just want to get a better handle on this. I understand that barbers are licensed through the Department of Public Health now and that it sounds like the apprenticeship program is not in effect, of course, and that's why you're here before us.

You also mentioned however, the Department of Labor had schools that would be able to offer courses, obviously, and training, as we well know.

Now, I'm trying to understand. What precludes, stops someone from going to school, attending classes and the school entering into an agreement, if you will, with the barbershops to do, you know, a work study program, and you know, just like with other professions, not related to health particularly, but be able to be paid if you will, receive a stipend, like an internship or something along that line but not in a health setting.

I mean, I don't understand what the barrier here is.

WERNER OYANADEL: Sure. Through the Chair. I can't speak on behalf of the schools, but I can tell you that at least what we are presenting to you is something that can be done within the state.

The Department of Labor said that they can, they have years of experience doing apprenticeship programs in the state.

In the case of the barbershop apprenticeship program, all they need is the blessing of the Department of Public Health, meaning that they would require the state to actually allow them to provide that service.

So I know the schools are working with us. As a matter of fact they were going to, at least one school from the area of Waterbury was going to speak to you today. He was not able to attend, but I will ask him to present to you their point of view as to the language of this bill. Unfortunately, I can't speak on their behalf.

What I'm trying to tell you probably in summary is that, you know, at least from the perspective that we are seeing this, we want to open up opportunities for individuals that are working in this trade.

Many of them are tremendously successful. They're very skilled at their trade and they have been doing this trade for such a long time that you know, paying \$18,000 at a private school, it's something that may not be doable.

And we know that what we're trying to do is, we're not trying to take business away from the schools. All we're saying is that the schools

will have their population and their customers. This would be an alternative to getting that license from the Department of Public Health.

And what better opportunity now that we're going through a recession to actually give more opportunities to business entrepreneurs rather than being punitive only? I think the State and the Legislature is always looking for a way to help the small business owners succeed.

And this program actually would be very successful. We have the research that already highlights all the positive benefits to an economy for individuals to have apprentices in their businesses. Not only it can allow that individual, that business owner continue to increase their business, but it will also benefit their own business because they'll have young people getting involved in their trade and motivated to move forward within that business.

There's a significant amount of benefits that we're looking that would be beneficial locally, in the economy, and including the fact that after the individual is able to finish their apprenticeship program in the state through the Department of Labor, now they would be able to pass the test, get a license as an apprentice barber, which would be more fees to the state, and then later when they finish that period of time as an apprenticeship, as an apprentice barber, they can apply for a master barber license, which would be an additional amount of fees to the state.

So I think all in all, this would benefit the small business owner. It would benefit the individual barbers that do not currently have a license. It would also then benefit the state, which would be getting the fees from the new licenses.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. Representative Johnson, followed by Representative Davis.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you so much for your testimony today and I really appreciate your time and effort on this issue. I know we've been working on this for the last couple of years and we're trying to find a solution that doesn't cost an enormous amount of money, and you just got through testifying that it cost approximately \$18,000.

And where do people go to school for becoming a barber and why does it cost so much?

WERNER OYANADEL: Well, currently there are several barber and cosmetology schools in the state. They are private business enterprises that are providing this service. I have spoken to some of the school owners and they were very excited that recently the Department of Public Health was able to provide the curriculum for the barbershop test in both English and Spanish.

The State Department of Public Health is also providing the test in Spanish that at the end of the course the individual would be able to take the test in a language that they best understand, and they are telling me that they're ready to even hire new individuals in their schools to actually be able to teach the curriculum in their schools.

So the school systems, the colleges, the community colleges are providing the service and we know that many individuals getting into the trade have the ability of going through this regular path to getting a license.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, within our community is that we have individuals that have

been doing this trade for many, many years, more than 18, 20, for the examples that I have seen around the state. Most of those individuals don't have the money to actually pay all the fees and they have to continue to work to make ends meet.

And so in the case of Waterbury, we know that Waterbury closed down most of those illegal shops this past year and I met with the Mayor at the time and I explained to them, the way that the economy is going right now, we don't want to really close down businesses. We really want to encourage businesses to do business and have the opportunities that they need to actually do their trade in Connecticut.

And this is why I talked to him and I said, listen, why don't we create an apprenticeship program to give these owners the opportunity to get their temporary license to continue practicing their trade and the Mayor of Waterbury told me that's, you know, it's a good idea.

And this is why we are here to, you know, to offer that opportunity to individuals. Again, we are not condoning people to practice without a license. We are very concerned about the public health issues that we have when we have individuals that are not tested on issues that are in reference to public health, and that's exactly why we feel that an apprenticeship program like this would be beneficial because they could get the training that they need, the practice hours that they need during the day and at night they can now continue to get their curriculum, their academic experience if you will on the trade.

And the benefit for our community is that we wouldn't be closing shops. We would actually be getting them a hand up so that they can actually

get that license and continue to practice their trade.

REP. JOHNSON: So where are these places available for people to get their training and their education to become a barber? Are they available throughout the state or do people have to travel? Where can they go?

WERNER OYANADEL: Through the Chair. I don't know all the schools that are in Connecticut. I know that there is one in Waterbury and I know that the community colleges are providing some of the service and the community colleges are all around the state.

The schools that provide the financial aid that it's important for the businesses, may not be everywhere in the public, in the private sector.

So the barber in Willimantic traveling to Waterbury to actually get their schooling at night would not work as much. This is why, you know, this type of apprenticeship program would be beneficial because the Department of Labor within the curriculum that we provided to you, would be able to be rolled out in many more community colleges, which are across the state.

REP. JOHNSON: So you think there should be a change in curriculum in how people are trained and the courses they must take and how long it should be.

WERNER OYANADEL: Through the Chair, what I'm saying is that the Department of Labor has a significant, very in-depth curriculum available. The question would be, you know, is this curriculum at least in the part of the schooling component of it, can be given at all community colleges of the state, in addition to the private schools.

By opening it up to the community college system and to the private entities would allow us to have more opportunities for the barbers to have different options where to get their schooling component of their trade.

REP. JOHNSON: What about the high schools or technical schools? Have you thought about that? I mean, they did have a beautician's course in these places. Are there any places the State of Connecticut in the vo-tech schools that offer these types of classes?

WERNER OYANADEL: The full answer is actually in my testimony and I would be happy to highlight those sections of how the Department of Labor is indicating which schools are going to be provided the curriculum to provide this type of service.

If it's not in my testimony, I would be sending that information towards the Co-Chairs of the Committee so that you are fully aware what the Department of Labor is saying where this curriculum can be rolled out.

REP. JOHNSON: I did briefly look at your testimony while you were testifying and I didn't quite see the entire thing, but they do have some of this, but not the places perhaps, but they do have the requirements that you would have to address before you're able to get your license.

WERNER OYANADEL: I will request the list of the schools, the technical schools and the school systems where you would be able to provide this training and I will submit it to the Committee.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. This is very, very good and this is something we'll have to continue to work on and look at and anything from any of the Members? Yes, Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Director. So, are you asking for individuals not to have to go to these schools and instead operate under this apprentice license? Is that what this program would do, or are you saying that they would still go to school but they would be able to operate as a barber under this apprentice program?

WERNER OYANADEL: Thank you for that great question. What I'm trying to say is that we want to give these barbers alternatives. So basically, if they want to get this apprenticeship license, they would be required to get a significant amount, a number of hours, accredited time by the Department of Labor for the regular practice hours, but they would also be required to get the academic component at the school level.

Now they can do that at a private entity. They could do it through the Department of Labor endorsed locations, which could include the community colleges, could include the high schools and others.

So all of them would be required to get an academic component of the, for the trade.

REP. DAVIS: And under what you propose for the apprenticeship license, would they still have to serve under a master barber and then I see these unlicensed barbers that are operating now that are being shut down across the state, they would not be able to open up their businesses right away because they would still have to find a master barber to operate under, I guess, under this apprenticeship program.

Is that what the intention of the program would be?

WERNER OYANADEL: Yes, sir. We know that this program will not be able to help everyone affected, but if the individual, if their shop is closed down they will have to find another barbershop that would be willing to participate in this program and work underneath a licensed master barber.

REP. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Director. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. Representative Miller.

REP. PHIL MILLER: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for your testimony, Werner and thank you gentlemen for coming in and making a good case.

My question is, are you familiar with the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce's Side Street to Main Street Apprenticeship Program by any chance?

WERNER OYANADEL: I'm not familiar with the one that you're explaining, no.

REP. PHIL MILLER: Well, the Middlesex Chamber is the largest Chamber in the northeast. I think they have over 3,000 members and they had a program that has been going for a number of years now, and I think it was originally aimed mostly for salons and barbershops where they, I think they're working in concert with one or two of the schools where they have an apprenticeship program whereby apprentices can sign up with established shops.

And sometimes they even carve them out a smaller space in the existing area so that they can get the experience and even start to build up clientele so that when they're ready to go out on their own towards the end of their schooling, they have some terrific training and they're ready to go.

And in a couple cases I know, the Chamber with another one of their programs has even made long-term low-interest loans available to help set up people in physical plants to run a business like this.

WERNER OYANADEL: Thank you for that information.

What I found through my research is that before 1981 there were several apprenticeship programs available for Connecticut and because of a law that was adopted back in 1981 all those programs and apprenticeship programs were closed down, were, are against the law.

And what we are trying to say to you is, you know, maybe there are some other reasons why we cannot have these apprenticeship programs, and if there is, we would like to know because maybe we would be convinced that this is not the right way to go about this.

But when I met with the Director of the Apprenticeship Programs for the Department of Labor he said, this program could actually help Connecticut right now. We have all these curriculums on our shelves ready to be given so that more opportunities are given, not just to Latino barbers, but to any other barber that wants to get inside this trade.

And unfortunately, he says, I can't touch those programs because there are regulations within the Department of Public Health that we need to get their blessing to do this.

So then I went over to the Department of Public Health. I met with them. They were very open-minded about this. I don't believe that they are opposed to it whatsoever. I think that they would just require your, the Legislature to make that small technical change to allow for this to happen.

And we would be happy to work with all the stakeholders, the schools, the private barber shops, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Labor to make sure that whatever program we rolled out is according to state guidelines in terms with safety nets for public safety.

And overall, what we're looking for are opportunities to make our business entrepreneurs actually succeed. They are tremendously skilled at their trade. Some of those individuals that are coming from Puerto Rico, from the Dominican Republic can give you a haircut that from the experience that I have got from doing my research that is extremely wonderful.

And what a best way to actually help this business is increase, which not only would be beneficial to the business owners themselves, but imagine the amount of revenue that we can actually bring back to the state.

Because currently, these barbers are practicing their trade without a license. It's not that they're not practicing. It's not that they're not doing the job. They are doing the job and the state is missing all those opportunities and, you know, and from a public safety concern, we also don't want them to be practicing without them showing and proving to us that they're doing a safe trade.

REP. PHIL MILLER: Thank you for that answer and I wanted to say, I think that that apprenticeship program is done in concert with the Health Director, and maybe there's a protocol that they have in place that they'd be glad to share with you that might even help advance us towards this worthy goal.

So thanks, thanks again for your testimony and thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, Representative Miller. Also, Werner, could you submit any language, that technical change that you mentioned after your discussions with the Department of Public Health that would help us move the bill along.

Are there any other questions? If not, thank you gentlemen for coming today and thank you for bringing this before our Committee.

WERNER OYANADEL: Thank you. I know that the language of the bill currently, it's talking about a study that will be done in 2014. For many years we have received the same language, and what we're asking the state is, at least last year there was a bill similar to this where the state was requiring for a study to be conducted.

The business owners that we have in our state particularly in Willimantic and in Waterbury, their shops are being shut down.

Normally, when they're getting these licenses, you should have maybe somebody from the Department of Public Health go there and give them a fine of sorts.

But in our communities what we have is, we have the police department going to those stores and we have a significant conflict between our businesses and the police. We don't, we cannot wait two or three more years for this to be investigated.

We already have the responses. We have a program that is ready to roll out and all we need is the Legislature to make that technical change, and with that, thank you very much.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Next is Michael FitzPatrick followed by Henry Genga, Representative Genga. Welcome, and please state your name for the record.

MICHAEL FITZPATRICK: Thank you. Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and the rest of the public Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Michael FitzPatrick. I reside at 271 Georgetown Drive in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

In regard to the MOLST bill, 6521, I am caregiver zero. My wife Pirkko-Liisa at age 65 passed away peacefully at home from a glioblastoma brain tumor on December 20, 2011 that was diagnosed on May 5, 2010.

We were very fortunate that my wife's best friend was Dr. Ilona Figura. Well we knew Dr. Figura was a hospitalist advocating and now board certified in palliative care, we never actually understood the concept until Pirkko was diagnosed.

After Pirkko's death, I pledged to Dr. Figura I would support her to get a MOLST bill to the Legislature. We named it the Pirkko Project, and vowed never to give up.

I would like to thank all the members of the Task Force that labored to bring this bill to the Legislature, and this Committee for taking the time to hear one of the most pressing issues facing healthcare today.

As a former Nevada assemblyman, I know the efforts needed to bring good legislation into law.

respond to, certification levels, things like that.

SENATOR KANE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate that. I know that you guys do a great job in town and appreciate all you do. Thank you.

JERRY SCHWAB: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. Anyone else? If not, thank you so much for coming today and giving your testimony.

JERRY SCHWAB: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Next is Representative Victor Cuevas. Welcome.

REP. CUEVAS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair. Madam Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Senator Gerratana, Senator Welch, Representative Miller, Representative Srinivasan and Senator Kane, I'm here in support of Bill Number 6485.

I just want, I know that you heard in detail testimony earlier from LAPRAC organization and the collaborative effort they're getting together and doing, putting a bill together with the Health Department.

My experience with this bill is that, and I want to speak from some validity from my constituency and I know that it exists in New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury and New Britain.

In Waterbury, our Health Department took on an initiative to basically crack down on illegal barbers last year. I know that a lot of folks throughout the state kind of saw that come to the forefront in the newspaper and the media.

And I have to tell you that being in Waterbury for 40 years, and in my district, there's approximately 30 barbershops in Waterbury. There's 130,000 people in Waterbury. There's like 30 barbershops. In my district, there's about 20.

And I've got to tell you that out of the 20 in my district, about 10, about half were shut down, and you know, rightfully so, because there's other people doing business properly and went through the proper channels of getting license and what have you.

But you know, the transformation of barbering has you know, taken a toll on some of the constraints that it builds on some of the constituency in regards to language barriers, alternative route to barbering and things of that nature.

And I've got to tell you that this bill specifically wants to imply an initiative to set forth an apprenticeship program, which I think is fantastic.

Because let's face it, I mean, in other areas there's a lot of apprenticeships and in barbering there should be an apprenticeship.

I think that this bill needs some addressing with the language to be more specifically driven and to make sure that we follow some standards and regulatory standards, but the intent of the bill is absolutely a good bill.

I think that it's going to help the economy, keeping people for open business. You know, when the 10 shops in my district closed, it was simply because there was one barber with a license and five or six other barbers that were in school but they didn't have their licenses and they were shut down because the one barber could not keep

up with the demand of business that was coming into the barbershop.

And so, he was forced to close. Several of them were forced to close, and so, you see a lot of this youth coming up that has the 16 to 25 years old that are not college bound that are basically barbers. Some of them are in school. Some of them have high school diplomas. Some of them have eighth grade diplomas, but they do a good job at what they do.

And you know, I know that the Legislature just passed a bill to bring down the hours of actual practice time, which is great, but I believe that when I look back at what happened in 2012 in Waterbury, you know, we shut 10 barbershops down and those individuals that work in those barbershops, there were 30, 40 guys affected.

You know, they own property. They pay taxes on their vehicles. You know, they're participating members in society, positive and productively. And when you take the opportunity for them to earn money, it's going to hurt everybody and I think that it's just an opportunity to be proactive and allow, you know, these young people that want to go into this professionalism to be legal and that aspect, follow all the regulatory standards, state and local and you know, just run business the way it should be run.

It gives them an opportunity to go to school and also earn money and earn school credits to then go back, that are applicable toward their degree in barbershop.

SENATOR GERRATANA: You know, I appreciate you coming to our Committee and explaining what went on in Waterbury a little bit better. At least I appreciate that so I understand, you know, a little bit more.

And of course, thank you.

REP. CUEVAS: No problem. And of course --

SENATOR GERRATANA: All your testimony.

REP. CUEVAS: -- New Britain went through the same thing, New Haven, and at the end of the day --

SENATOR GERRATANA: Right.

REP. CUEVAS: -- I think that a lot of folks that are not affected by it, like anything else, we all run across things that we're affected by.

But this, particularly, because as a Legislator, as a community leader, and also my relationship with the Mayor and I'm also a public servant. I run recreation for 20 years and a lot of my kids that grew up in the past 20 years that didn't go to college became barbers and they're going to school and they're working but you know, they were told they can't work. They shut down their doors, so now, you know, it's a bad remedy for some of these young people who don't have other alternatives. That's all I'm saying. Thank you very much. Any questions?

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. I don't know. Any questions? No?

REP. CUEVAS: Okay.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Oh, wait a minute. Representative Johnson has one. Hold on.

REP. JOHNSON: Just want to thank you for your work on this and your testimony today. It's very helpful. I, too, have been working on this issue and I hope that we can work together to come to some solution.

REP. CUEVAS: Absolutely, look forward to it. Thank you so much.

REP. JOHNSON: Thanks again.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, sir. Next will be Scott Andrews, followed by Peter Struble.

REP. JOHNSON: Welcome, and please state your name for the record.

SCOTT ANDREWS: Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Scott Andrews. I'm Chief and Executive Director of Seymour Ambulance Association and I am speaking in opposition of Bill 6518.

This bill in its entirety will fragment the emergency medical services in the State of Connecticut and become a detriment to patient care.

I believe that proper oversight is essential to the success of any system. Removing this oversight will have a negative impact to EMS in Connecticut.

This bill eliminates many of the oversight components of the EMS system that helps to validate us as professionals. I believe that the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board serves a vital function within our state. This board serves as a conduit and sounding board for the review and development of processes and procedures, the review of equipment and the overall evaluation of the EMS system.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 11
3377-3693**

2013

Testimonio en apoyo de la levantada ley N° 6485 "una ley relativa a un Programa de aprendizaje para barberos.

Buenos días senador Gerratana, representante de estado Johnson y honorable miembros de la Comisión de salud pública. Mi nombre es Miguel Varga del Oeste Av 63 de Willimantic, estoy aquí para hablar en nombre de muchos otro barbero que no pudieron llegar hoy, en apoyo de la levantada ley N° 6485 "una ley relativa a un Programa de aprendizaje para barberos

Los peluqueros de Willimantic y el condado de Windham estamos en apoyo de este lenguaje y le pedimos a la Comisión a votar a favor de la ley No. 6485; sin embargo, le pedimos que considere la posibilidad de ajustar o cambiar el lenguaje del proyecto de ley para crear el programa de aprendizaje barbería a este año. La comisionada de LPRAC Lourdes Montalvo y el director activo Werner Oyanadel de la Comisión ya se reunieron con todas las partes interesadas y ya tiene una respuesta a todas las preguntas que figuran con esto y están listos para presentar los resultados durante la audiencia pública.

para mí el ser babero me ha mantenido lejos de problemas

Yo he trabajado como barbero por muchos años y e tenido la oportunidad de aprender todo lo necesario para hacer mi trabajo. Como todo los demás barbero presentes y ausentes queremos hacer las cosas por la ley Solo que hay un problema la economía no nos los permite. Como ustedes escucharon el día de hoy muchos de nosotros hacemos esta profesión porque es algo familiar, y podría atreverme a decir cultural por que es algo que estamos haciendo por generaciones. Nosotros tomamos todas las precauciones necesarias. Aunque algunos no han ido a la escuela saben que hay enfermedades y que tenemos que tener mucho cuidado. Por eso cuando cortamos pelo lo hacemos como si la persona fuera miembro de nuestra familia aunque con la mayoría de las personas que vienen a recortarse tenemos una amistad y les cojeemos aprecio y los respetamos.

Desde hace 2 años en Willimantic a nosotros nos tienen en un estado de nervios increíble, las autoridades locales no nos dejan en paz. Lo que no entiendo es que no hay reportes de que le hayamos echo equivocado donde alguien se aya enfermado después de un recorte de pelo No entiendo porque la persecución como si fuéramos criminales. Como es la única manera de ganar el sustento de nuestras familias no nos dejan otra alternativa que ir de casa en casa recortando y allí si que no pueden monitorearnos. Por lo menos en la barbería pueden ir y inspeccionar todo nuestro equipo

Gracias por su apoyo en el pasado, yo se que Lourdes le puede ofrecer otras historias ya que ella a hablado con mas de 80 barberos por todo el estado y hay también que mencionar los que se van porque no les queda otra alternativa y se mudan a New York or Rhode Island porque aya es mas fácil.

Hoy le estoy pidiendo una oportunidad no solo para mi pero para muchos otros barberos que lo único que queremos es ganarnos la vida decentemente. Por favor apoyen una reforma que puede ser implementada lo más rápido posible.

Gracias por su tiempo y escucharme.

Testimony in support of Raised H.B. No. 6485 "An Act Concerning a Barbershop Apprenticeship Program"

Good morning Senator Gerratana, State Representative Johnson, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Julio Rivera 4 old Schoolhouse RD of Willimantic, I am here to speak on behalf of many other barber that were not able to come today, in support of Raised H.B. No. 6485 "An Act Concerning a Barbershop Apprenticeship Program.

We the barbers of Willimantic and Windham County are supportive of the language and we ask the committee to vote in favor of H.B. 6485; however, we ask you to consider the possibility of adjusting or change the language of the bill to actually create the barbershop apprenticeship program this year. LPRAC Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo and Commission Acting Director Werner Oyanadel already met with all the stakeholders and already has response to all the questions listed with this and are ready to present the findings during the public hearing.

For me being a barber has kept me away from problems. This is my profession since practically I was a child. I learned by observing others in my family who for generations have support their families by cutting hair. I'm proud to be able to teach the new generations of my family that by cutting hair they can earn a decent living.

I have worked as a Barber for many years and had the opportunity to learn everything you need to do in barbering. As all the other Barber present and those not able to come today I want to do things by the law. Only that there is a problem because the economy does not allowed us to do so. As you heard today many of us do this profession because is something we lean from a family member, and I could dare to say is cultural because is something we are doing for generations after generations. We take all necessary precautions. Although some have not gone to school, they know that there are diseases and that we have to be very careful. So when we cut hair, we do it as if the person were a member of our family, and we wont harm our family. Furthermore, the people who come to us become friends some close friends and we appreciate them and respect them. Besides they know if we don't do what we suppose.

For the pass 2 years in Willimantic we are incredibly nervous, because local authorities don't leave us in peace. What I don't understand is that there are no reports that we have done something wrong where someone had become sick after a hair cut. I do not understand why were persecuted like criminals.

as it is the only way to earn the money to support of our families, you leave us no other alternative that go from House to House cutting hair and there you can not be monitor. At least in the barber shop, they can go and inspect all equipment.

Thanks for your support in the past, I know hat Lourdes can offer other stories because she talked to more than 80 barbers statewide and I want to take this opportunity to mention those who leave the state because they have no alternative and move to New York or Rhode Island because is more easy to get the license and have other programs not offer in Connecticut.

Today day is hard because, as the majority of barbers we want to do things by the law but we don't have many alternatives. Today I am asking for an opportunity not only for me but for many other barbers that the only thing we want is make a decent living. Please support a reform that can be implemented a soon as possible.

Thank you, for your time and the opportunity to listen to my testimony.

Testimony in support of Raised H.B. No. 6485 "An Act Concerning a Barbershop Apprenticeship Program

Good morning Senator Gerratana, State Representative Johnson, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Miguel Varga of the 63 Av. West of Willimantic, I am here to speak on behalf of many other barber that were not able to come today, in support of Raised H.B. No. 6485 "An Act Concerning a Barbershop Apprenticeship Program

We the barbers of Willimantic and Windham County are supportive of the language and we ask the committee to vote in favor of H.B. 6485; however, we ask you to consider the possibility of adjusting or change the language of the bill to actually create the barbershop apprenticeship program this year. LPRAC Commissioner Lourdes Montalvo and Commission Acting Director Werner Oyanadel already met with all the stakeholders and already has response to all the questions listed with this and are ready to present the findings during the public hearing.

Today, barbershops generally offer simpler haircuts than beauty salons or spas. Increasing, women are choosing to utilize barbershops for short or simple haircuts because they cost much less than the same cut at a salon. In small towns, the barber can still be the place to go for town gossip and political discussion, please come visit us.

I am a Barber for more than 18 years. It was this way that I have been able to support my family and pay taxes in Willimantic, one of the most poor cities in the State of CT. I do not know another profession and unfortunately although I would like to go to the Academy; I can not because I have to support my family. When I started as Barber they had no requirements. The Laws came after. I just want to do my job without local police giving unfair fines. When I started, I was not in violation of any law because there were no laws and now the police will not let me work quiet.

Today I am asking for an opportunity not only for me but for many other barbers that the only thing we want is make a decent living.
Please support a reform that can be implemented a soon as possible.

Thank you, for your time and the opportunity to listen to my testimony.

Testimonio en apoyo de la levantada ley N° 6485 "una ley relativa a un Programa de aprendizaje para barberos.

Buenos días senador Gerratana, representante de estado Johnson y honorable miembros de la Comisión de salud pública. Mi nombre es Miguel Varga del Oeste Av. 63 de Willimantic, estoy aquí para hablar en nombre de muchos otro barbero que no pudieron llegar hoy, en apoyo de la levantada ley N° 6485 "una ley relativa a un Programa de aprendizaje para barberos.

Los peluqueros de Willimantic y Windham County estamos en apoyo de este lenguaje y le pedimos a la Comisión a votar a favor de la ley No. 6485; sin embargo, le pedimos que considere la posibilidad de ajustar o cambiar el lenguaje del proyecto de ley para crear el programa de aprendizaje barbería a este año. La comisionada de LPRAC Lourdes Montalvo y el director activo Werner Oyanadel de la Comisión ya se reunieron con todas las partes interesadas y ya tiene una respuesta a todas las preguntas que figuran con esto y están listos para presentar los resultados durante la audiencia pública.

Hoy, nosotros los barberos ofrecemos generalmente más simples cortes de cabello que salones de belleza o spas. De echo a aumentando, la cantidad de mujeres que escogen utilizar barberías para cortes de pelo cortos o simples porque cuestan mucho menos que el mismo corte en un salón. En las ciudades pequeñas, las barberías todavía puede ser el lugar para ir a hablar de política y chismes de la ciudad, por favor venga y visítenos.

Soy un peluquero durante más de 18 años. Así fue que he sido capaz de mantener a mi familia y pagar impuestos en Willimantic, una de las ciudades más pobres en el estado de CT. No conozco otra profesión y lamentablemente aunque me gustaría ir a la Academia; No puedo porque tengo que mantener a mi familia. Cuando empecé como peluquero no tenían requisitos. Las leyes llegaron después. Sólo quiero hacer mi trabajo sin que la policía local me este dando multas injustas. Cuando empecé, no estaba en violación de ninguna ley porque no había ninguna ley y ahora la policía no me deja trabajar tranquilo.

No conozco otra profesión y lamentablemente aunque me gustaría ir a la Academia puede no porque tengo que mantener a mi familia. Cuando empecé como peluquero tenía no ambos requisitos. Sólo quiero hacer mi trabajo sin el local de la policía me esta dando multas injustas. Cuando empecé no estaba en violación de cualquier ley porque no había ninguna ley. y ahora la policía no me deja trabajar tranquilo.

Hoy le estoy pidiendo una oportunidad no solo para mi pero para muchos otros barberos que lo único que queremos es ganarnos la vida decentemente. Por favor apoyen una reforma que puede ser implementada lo más rápido posible.

Gracias por su tiempo y escucharme.

S - 664

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

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PART 13
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And this bill, although it -- it may risk costing a little bit more because there is no automatic approval based on a lack of the department back within 30 days or just filing a guarantee that you will not exceed certain ratio limits, I think the protections here for the consumer are in the bill, and I stand in support of it.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, thank you.

And I appreciate all my colleagues' input. And if there is no objection, I ask that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 17, Calendar 569, House Bill Number 6485, AN ACT CONCERNING A BARBER SHOP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, Favorable report of the Committee on Public Health.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Good afternoon, Madam President.

Madam President, I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage in concurrence.

Will you please remark?

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Yes. Thank you very much.

Madam President, this bill before us establishes a feasibility study to establish a barber shop apprentice program with the Department of Labor and the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council, and also in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health.

This bill will go a long way to addressing some of the concerns from the testimony that we heard from individuals who came before us in the current way that a master barber license is established and given by the Department of Public Health.

And many have asked for the opportunity to do what I would call a work study, an apprenticeship program that would allow them to also become barbers that way. So in hearing their testimony, we decided in public health that this would be an appropriate way to go to have the individuals who are concerned look at to establish -- perhaps establish a barber shop apprenticeship program.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

This is a very good bill that we have before us for a number of reasons. Frankly, I think -- I think our country has come too far away from the use of apprenticeships, whether it be with respect to barber shops or many other fields in industry and in commerce.

Madam President, you saw a friend of ours today from another country, a young man who is a soccer player. And for those of you who are footballers was in the Ipswich Town Football Club Program for a while.

He's staying with us. He's helping the Bristol kids learn how to play good football, good soccer. But it reminds me, I spent a lot of time in England and over there they have a lot of apprenticeship programs.

In fact, many of the solicitors that I work with in the United Kingdom went through apprenticeship programs themselves. It used to be in America to be a lawyer you would be an apprentice for a long time. I there's only one state left that will allow you to be licensed as an attorney as an apprentice.

But it's a good program. It's a good program that we should have here, especially for barber shops. I remember during the testimony this was very important to the Latino community, especially here in Hartford. So I stand in strong support. I think it's something that we just need to get back to in general.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much.

Will you remark?

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you, Madam President.

I also stand in strong favor of the bill. I think it's a great one, and as Senator Welch pointed out, it's something that we here in the United States do not take advantage of enough, and having worked abroad for quite some time, I've had a lot of exposure to the apprenticeship program in some of the European countries.

And in particular the country of Germany has perhaps the best example of the apprenticeship program, which goes back at least 100 years. It probably goes back more than that, 125 years, maybe, to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

Because the only way that you can learn a particular trade, especially a sophisticated one, is by actually doing hands-on training underneath someone who they would consider a master at whatever the trade might be, and boy does it work.

If you look at -- if you look at their products and how they've done in the world marketplace, not just within Western Europe, but also throughout the entire world, they have done extremely well, and there's no question they can trace that back to the roots of the apprenticeship approach that they take in -- in their country.

It's also a cost-effective program in that you don't have to necessarily open up schools to concentrate in these different fields. What you do is you have people who express an interest earlier on in -- in their careers or even still while they're being educated in a particular area, and they go and they learn from the very best. And they're the best-prepared work force that they know of and that we might know of in the world to take on these different industrial tasks.

So thank you for introducing this bill, and thank you for supporting it in the circle.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark, Senator Witkos?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

You know, I -- I do have a question. Through you, Madam President, to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS:

I was a few years ago when I was elected to the Senate, I had the opportunity to represent one of my district towns who had a technical high school in it. It was the Oliver Wolcott Technical High School up in Torrington.

And I visited the school and saw one of the programs there, and one of the programs they have, which it was the beauty program, where the young ladies come in to learn about beauty school, I guess, if you will, and work towards a beautician license. And, you know, that school in particular has a waiting list of kids to get into it, and that's the type of things I would really hope that we could promote and I'm hoping that this bill goes in line with that.

But so my question through you, Madam President, to Senator Gerratana is is there any relationship between what we're attempting to do through the feasibility study here and what is being conducted at the technical high schools, through you, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'd like to respond in this way, Senator Witkos. I know that this bill has been before us or variations of it for at least two years that I'm aware of. And there were so many challenges, and those questions were asked actually to us in the committee, and there seemed to be opinions all over the place, if you will, which is one of the reasons why we decided to go in this way.

One of the challenges, as I understood it, from the testimony that was given, is that in -- I think it was in 2010 we changed our licensure with barbers to make them master barbers, and that is a little more rigid and arduous course, if you will.

So my understanding is that now it takes somewhere around two years or so to go for that master barber once you have, you know, gone through the program and have to go to your school, similar to the hairdressing school and so forth. There are a number that both technical schools as well as what I recall commercial or private industry schools.

So because of that there was a request from a number of individuals saying, well, why couldn't we have, for instance, a work study so that this would cut down a little bit on the time and also provide, if you will, some way to make some money, to earn some money while you're going to school.

Because of the changes that were made in licensure laws, I understand it, back in that day, that many people came before us, as I said, gave testimony, and we decided this was the first step to look at. And if you look at the criteria establishing a barber shop apprentice program, we haven't even gotten to the point of establishing it, but to discuss it.

And then the time period needed to establish such a program, as well as the educational and professional

experience requirements for apprentices. These were identified as some of the challenges in the testimony that was given, so we thought in the Public Health Committee that this would be a very appropriate way to approach it.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Senator Gerratana, for that answer.

And I applaud the Public Health Committee for bringing the bill forward, and you know, anything we can do to open up more doors for opportunities for our young folks to not only earn a little income to pay for their schooling, but open up a whole nother career field for them is the way to go.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you a question to the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you to Senator Gerratana, the House A removes the executive director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. A, why is that? And B, because wasn't it brought to us by the Latino community to begin with because this was an issue in some of the -- the urban areas that -- that have this problem, if you will, through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you. Senator Kane, I think there was some discussion along with the director of the Puerto Rican and Latino Commission and that there was agreement that this would be the first step to be taken. It's not just for, if you will, Latinos in our community, but for anyone who would like to eventually go on and become a barber, I guess, through whatever program may or may not be established through the legislation in this bill.

So I think the discussion in the house, and I think the reason why one particular person or participation was removed was because there was agreement that it was far more general.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Is it really though? Is it really far more general? I -- my understanding is the issue came out of, I believe, Waterbury, where there were local barber shops that were going to be shut down because they

didn't have the proper licensing, and this was a way to get those barber shops licensed through the process. They were -- they were going to be shut down immediately or entirely, and this was a way to get them to be regulated, and through the process.

So if I remember correctly, the whole idea came from that community, and from the issue they were having, so I'm curious. I do believe, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, but the discussion in committee was in relation to that specific community. So when did it become more general, I guess, is the question. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Through you, Madam President.

Yes, you're absolutely right, Senator Kane. I do recall the gentleman who testified from our committee -- in front of our committee from Waterbury. And that is absolutely right, and they just happen to be people that are Latino.

But I believe and I don't want to speak for the House, my co chair, who made this decision, but I believe the reason why the establishment of this feasibility study was left to the individuals, or I should say, the agencies that are in here, because we we needed to start somewhere, if you will, and it seemed very appropriate to make it general, first of all, and then also to have those agencies that would be involved make their recommendation. This is not the be all end all, this is the first step, if you will.

Madam President

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

The -- well, let me take a step back. Madam President, is it a study, through you?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Through you, Madam President.

It says on line 4 study the feasibility of establishing a barber shop apprentice program.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you.

I just wanted to clarify that. And the study will be done by whom? Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

The language says that it would be under the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council, in consultation with the Public Health and also within -- to establish this program within the Labor Department.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so there -- on this apprenticeship panel, is there anyone from the Puerto Rican or Latino community serving on this, or we'll have participation in it.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Through you, Madam President.

That I do not know who is on that council.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Okay. You know, I do support the underlying bill, and I do support the concept. What I question is the necessity of the House, I guess, to make it more generalized. Because my understanding it was -- it was not. And I don't want to see this community not be serviced or not be represented in this legislation, because that's where the issue came from.

It came from a situation in Waterbury where there were members of the Latino community who were going to be shut down, entrepreneurs that opened their own businesses and for lack of whether it be understanding of the terminology or understanding of the process or what have you, were being shut out.

And I guess through you to Senator Gerratana, maybe just for legislative intent, if you could help me in that regard and ease my mind that that will not be the case, that we won't just paint this program with one

single brush, yet we will look at this situation still because I think it's very important. Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President, through you.

This is applicable to everyone, but I know that -- I believe that -- let's put it that way, that by everyone that would mean all the different concerns of the groups of people and individuals who would like to become barbers through perhaps a barber shop apprenticeship program would be able to do so.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I will support the bill, and I thank Senator Gerratana for her answers. But I am a little concerned that the Latino and Puerto Rico Affairs Commission from the legislation.

Through you, thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Linares.

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR LINARES:

Good afternoon, Madam President.

I stand in strong support of this bill, and would like to take a moment to congratulate the advocates of this bill. I know that this was a very important policy for the Black and Latino caucus, of which I am a member, and I think that the bill is a win-win, not only for businesses, but also for young people in the State of Connecticut who we are having a difficulty in retaining.

We want young people to live here. We want young people to have opportunities here, and I think this bill does just that. I am in support. I ask -- urge my colleagues to support this bill as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

If there is no objection, I ask this item be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 5, Calendar 341, House Bill Number 6364, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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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.