

SA13-21

HB6602

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**FINANCE
REVENUE
AND BONDING
PART 4
926 - 1174**

2013

encourages investors and businesses to locate in these areas because they don't know that's going to happen project by project. Where if you identify geographic area in an economic sector, like the Life Sciences, I think you'll foster more interest and investment on the business side.

SENATOR LEONE: And I ask that question because when we've done these taxing district certif's in the past, it's usually because we had an identifiable concrete plan in order to spur that kind of legislation. This, sort of, goes against that grain and can open up the door to a couple of unforeseen circumstances that I still want to flush out so I'm just cautious on the proposal, but I'll be happy to work with you going forward and see if this is, in fact, what we need to do or should do. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. WIDLITZ: All right. You're welcome.

Any other questions? Okay.

Thank you very much, Kelly.

KELLY MURPHY: Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Senator Kane followed by William Huhn, Karolin Regan and Dana Pelliccio.

Good afternoon.

SENATOR KANE: Good afternoon. Senator, Fonfara, Representative Widlitz, Senator Frantz, Representative Williams, members

HB6602 SB1095

March 18, 2013
10:30 A.M.

of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, if you'll indulge me I would like to testify on two bills this afternoon. One of which is House Bill 6602, a very simple bill that would allow the Town of Seymour to have temporary notes renewed past the May 1, 2013 maturity date. This money was originally borrowed ten years ago for the construction of the Seymour Middle School. It was only recently discovered by the current town administration that the \$1.3 million in remaining notes could not be renewed past their tenth year.

The Town of Seymour is projected to receive this \$1.3 million from the state reimbursement but if these notes are not renewed by the Town, it will cost them additional \$580,000. Again, this bill is very simple and would save the Town of Seymour over a half a million dollars.

I also want to testify in favor of Senate Bill 1095, which was an act eliminating the increase in the petroleum products gross earning tax. I urge you to support that. As you know, we passed a temporary cap a year ago reducing the gross earnings tax to 7 percent. If you don't act on this bill, the tax is scheduled to raise to 8.1 percent come July 1st of this year. We already know that we have put upon our residents in Connecticut the highest or greatest tax increase in our state's history over the last two-year period. And we rank among the highest in taxes -- whether it be this one or most others. So this would be a step in the right direction. Save businesses, save our taxpayers and provide a better business

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climate which is all of us -- the
intention of all of us in the Legislature.
Thank you.

REP. WIDLITZ: Thank you.

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR FRANTZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I appreciate that and welcome, Senator Kane, to the Finance Committee once again. My first question has to do with the bonds in Seymour. We had Kurt Miller testify before. We got some background on why there needs to be an extension considered for the bond maturity date of the duration of the actual bond issuance, but he didn't mention the \$580,000 cost to the Town if you don't -- if Seymour does not get it's extension. Do you know why it would cost that much?

HB6602

SENATOR KANE: Well, first, you said it's your first questions so I'm assuming you have more than one. Thank you -- that was a joke by the way.

No, you know, I'm not familiar with the exact amount, but I know that they need to satisfy these bond notes, otherwise, they're going to have to go out and refinance them yet again, so that's where the cost will incur. So what we want to do, the State is going to reimburse the Town for that \$1.3 million. It was an oversight. It cannot go beyond the ten-year period. This legislation will give them that extended period of time so they can avoid those extra costs.

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SENATOR FRANTZ: Thank you very much, Senator Kane. I appreciate that answer, and I think these kinds of things happen more often than we realize in the State of Connecticut, and I think we do have to have a sympathetic ear towards them because of the costs involved. This is an educational institution that we're talking about, and I hope that the Committee does eventually support this because it does happen to a lot of different towns and the next town might be our very own, and it doesn't come at a great cost or at a great cost to the State of Connecticut.

My second question of my several dozen for you today, has to do with the gross receipts tax and, that is, are you of the belief that there is a high degree of elasticity or sensitivity to gas prices? In other words, those traveling through the state of Connecticut, they see \$4.19 is what I think I saw today for medium grade gasoline on the way up the Merritt Parkway and 91 versus \$3.75 in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Do you think that determines the purchasing behavior of motorists?

SB1095

SENATOR KANE: Thank you. And thank you for that and it was the current administration that found the issue with -- in the Town of Seymour so I appreciate you acknowledging that, and they are looking to make that change and fix the problem.

As my former colleague, Senator Suzio, who I guess left the room now, just handed me a graph because he's coming to testify on this, as well, and it's interesting that you mentioned it because the Connecticut

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Testimony regarding SB 0114

3/18/13

(SB 1114)

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Senators and Representatives thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you on the proposed bill today. My name is Tim Sullivan. I am an organizer with the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. I am a fifty plus year resident of this state. I am here today to call on the legislators in attendance to address the proposed changes in the Harbor Point Infrastructure Improvement District. This proposed legislation will accomplish a number of things for powerful, shadowy influences and organizations at the expense of honest taxpayers and voters in Stamford, as well as the rest of the state.

We welcome the chance to revisit an act that never should have been passed in the first place and are delighted the legislature will have a chance to re-examine the legality of giving corporations the right to vote in CT. This extension of the right to vote was clearly unprecedented in CT history. The legality of allowing a non-human entity to vote was never envisioned or even thought possible prior to passing the previous act. Personally I cannot understand why no state agency or watchdog has even questioned the legality of corporations voting. Nothing in the corporations or their charters complies with, now or then, the requirements of voters in CT as called out in statute. The length of residency and age are just a few that spring to my mind. Yet these creatures of legal construct still control the destiny of voting in this district.

The original legislation has a singularly interesting requirement that the District receive a set percentage of all construction costs in the district. This guarantee appears to be a certainty that the controllers of the district will reap a benefit from any and all construction. Given the complete lack of transparency on the part of this District's current officers there should be no consideration of continuing their existence, definitely no extensions or increased abilities

Now these corporations and their human puppet are back to once again bury their snouts in the public trough. There is included in this proposal an extension of the terms of current directors. This appears to be a blatant attempt to keep

control from potential future owners in HPIID from being able to interrupt or control the flow of funds to this group. This would seem to be a denial of process. We have gotten no satisfactory response from any agency involved with Harbor Point to account for certified payrolls for the work performed to date on infrastructure in the district. Ladies and gentlemen there were no responses to requests for accounting of these funds, not from the city or the district. There have been serious questions on the payment of wages as well as complying with state statutes regarding taxes and workers compensation. There have been over 34 stop work orders issued on jobsites in the Harbor Point Infrastructure Improvement District. These are jobsites these "corporate voters" controlled and created as of 2012.

There has been a long running failure of this District and the majority of their current officers failing to allow the general voters' access to minutes of the Board, in marked contrast to the majority of boards spending millions in Stamford. However the corporate voters had access to minutes through attendance by their minions on the board.

There is a section of the amendment that asks for the ability to re-direct and control tax funds. The act of even entertaining that ability will only guarantee virtually every municipality in the state will want that ability. I am fairly certain Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury to name a few will also have an interest in garnering income tax and sales tax for their coffers. The financial chaos these financiers and their puppet will wantonly unleash solely to feather their own nest is unimaginable.

As mentioned previously this district in Stamford has had over thirty four stop orders issued according to the Federal Dep't of Labor. Rewarding law breaking behavior with the access to tax funds is an insult to every legitimate business and every hardworking honest taxpayer in CT We need a very careful examination of this hastily passed initial legislation. We call out the need to bring the voting into compliance with current statutes, the same statutes that were in place when the legislature passed the enabling legislation. The legislature has that very rare chance to deal with a very apparent mistake. That door is open and needs to be

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 1, 2013

Members please check the board and 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.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 1032	
Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	6

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 403?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

On page 29 of today's calendar, 403, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, AN ACT CONCERNING A RENEWAL PERIOD FOR CERTAIN TEMPORARY NOTES.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

HB 6602

Representative Widlitz, the distinguished Chair of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, you have the floor, madam.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon to you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, madam.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark, madam?

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very uncomplicated bill. It simply allows the temporary notes issued by the town of Seymour on November 15th, 2012 to be renewed for a one-year period past their maturity date.

I move adoption, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

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May 1, 2013

Will you remark further on the bill?

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a situation that the town of Seymour finds itself in that they had issued bonds for school construction for -- not bonds, notes for school construction for ten years and due to project delays, some litigation they would like to have a one-year extension on those notes, so that they do not have to expend almost -- or actually more than a half a million dollars meeting this note before they receive the school construction reimbursement money.

So I urge my colleagues to support the bill,
Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam.

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Conroy of the 105th.

REP. CONROY (105th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to support this bill. I'm also on the Board of Selectmen member. This came about through no fault of the town of Seymour. It was through construction delays and some other problems

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that the money is there, we just need some time to be able to apply for the reimbursement rate and otherwise without this it will cost the town over \$550,000.

So I urge all my members here to support this bill.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Williams of the 68th District.

REP. WILLIAMS (68th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And good afternoon again.

I do rise in support of -- of this bill. I -- I would only point out though as a wise former member of this Chamber used to say pretty regularly when we changed the rules. Here we are. We're changing the rules again. We're changing the rules and it's a good cause, but we can very discriminately decide when we're changing the rules. We change the rules for businesses. We change the rules for workers' comp cases that need to be extended. In this particular case, we're changing the rules for the town of Seymour.

And we apply that changing the rules fairly discriminately here in this building, so those of you who remember former State Representative Reggie Beamon used to point that out to us all the time and while I do support the bill I thought I would point it out again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the bill that's before us?

If not, staff and guests 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?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board and make sure your votes are properly cast?

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

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 6602
Total Number Voting 143
Necessary for Passage 72
Those voting Yea 143
Those voting Nay 0
Absent and not voting 7

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill is passed.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker -- Mr. Speaker, I move we suspend our
rules for immediate transmittal to the Senate.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The motion is to immediate -- suspend our rules
for the immediate transmittal of the aforementioned
bill to the Senate.

Is there objection? Is there objection?

So ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 123?

THE CLERK:

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VETO
SESSION**

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SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Calendar page 15, Calendar 695, House Bill Number 5289, if that might also be added to our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Calendar page 5, Calendar 485, House Bill Number 6602, I'd like to move to place that item on our Consent Calendar, as well.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And, Mr. President, Calendar page 8, Calendar 606, House Bill Number 6674, I move to place this item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Calendar Page 15, Calendar 696, House Bill Number 6658, I move to place this item also on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the clerk would now call -- would now list the items on the Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar before taking up additional items.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 2 -- sorry -- House Bill 6672, and then on page 2, Calendar 423, House Bill 5907.

On page 4, Calendar 464, House Bill 5601; Calendar 465, House Bill 6630.

On page 5: 485, House Bill 6602; Calendar 503, House Bill 6635.

On page 6: Calendar 19, House Bill 5903; Calendar 522, House Bill 5598.

On page 7: Calendar 570, House Bill 6486; Calendar 571, House Bill 6492.

On page 8: Calendar 601, House Bill 6490; Calendar 606, House Bill 6674.

On page 10, Calendar 644, House Bill 6363.

On page 12, Calendar 668, House Bill 6362; and Calendar 672, House Bill 548.

On page 15: Calendar 695, House Bill 5289; Calendar 696, House Bill 6658.

On page 16: Calendar 704, House Bill 6692; 705, House Bill 6703.

On page 17: Calendar 706, House Bill 6651.

And on page 21: Calendar 431, Senate Resolution Number 15.

HB 5480

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please announce the pendency of a roll call vote, 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 on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members have voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to make sure your vote is accurately recorded.

If all members have recorded, the machine will be closed and the clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

The second Consent Calendar

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 2 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I just wanted to review and have we adopted Senate Agendas 3 and 4?

THE CHAIR: