

SA13-4

SB0880

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW
PART 3
580 - 891**

2013

SENATOR DOYLE: We've spent a lot of time --

JEFF WILSON: Yeah --

REP. MARONEY: Very good.

JEFF WILSON: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Next speaker is Becky Bombero, is Becky here? Yes, she is.

And we have Senator Dante Bartolomeo, Jay Hibbard, Senator Looney, Henry Talmage, Donnie Alino, Doug Rankin.

Becky?

REBECCA BOMBERO: My name is Rebecca Bombero. I'm the deputy chief of staff for the City of New Haven, I'm here to testify on behalf of SB 880, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PERMITS. Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In 2011, the General Assembly created a pilot in the City of New Haven, which allows the chief of police the opportunity to comment on liquor permit application renewals. The purpose of this bill would to extend the pilot period to allow for the consideration of the report that is due to the Legislature in February 2014, prior to the sunset of the program and to allow due consideration for the continuation and the expansion of this program.

In 2011, the City came to the General Assembly for help in dealing with problem bars. Its chronic issues existed at some liquor establishments in New Haven, ranging from persistent drug dealing to violence to even homicide. The police department has spent

considerable resources investigating activity at some of these establishments, yet when the establishments applied for liquor permit renewals, the police department was often in the dark.

With over a 100 establishments in the city with liquor permits, this bill allows the department to be notified when a liquor permit is up for renewal and to submit comments for consideration. The municipal police departments are the ones responding to and investigating problems at these establishments and have the most knowledge of activities occurring at them.

While the City has not yet had to submit comment on the renewal of a liquor permit, the ability to do so has improved relationships between law enforcement and local establishments. We now find willing partners in many bars when police offer suggestions on how to deal with problems at closing or when we suggest that additional security measures be undertaken. While there will always be room for improvement, in the past year there has been considerable improvement in the civility present at our liquor establishments. We feel, in large part, due to responsible management motivated by the new liquor permit renewal requirements.

As the bill is currently drafted, it would expand the pilot program to June 30, 2014, but would also delay the report until August. We ask that the report date be kept in place in February 14, so that there's no lapse in the period of the program and the renewal or continuation of the program.

And I thank you for your consideration and would be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any questions?

Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO: Under the present laws, do the chief of police, the chief-elected official, or the police commission have the authority or -- or do they listen to them if they were to write a letter to the Liquor Commission saying that X number of people are fraternizing a certain establishments, and so forth? Have they got the right to do that and does the liquor commission listen to them?

REBECCA BOMBERO: There's nothing in state law that requires the liquor permit to listen to comments by the police department, and there's nothing in the law would notify the police department of a renewal application. So unless you're paying attention or your actively out to get somebody and look up when their renewal date is, there's no way to know. The pilot program does is required notice to the police chief like it requires notice to the Public Health Inspector and the fire marshals of the renewal. And it allows the police chief opportunity to comment, and it requires the DP -- PC to consider those comments. It doesn't say they have to listen but they have to at least review them.

REP. ROVERO: Because it seems that if I was a chief-elected official or the chief of police, I wouldn't wait for renewal time. If I had an establishment in my town that was doing things that I didn't really think were better or best for everybody living in my town, I would write a letter anytime. I wouldn't wait for renewal, and it seems like the Liquor Commission would want or should listen to this as you write the letter.

So I'm not really sure if you're not already having the ability to do what you'd like to do.

You know, because to me the date of this renewal doesn't really mean much because to me if somebody's doing something in my town that I didn't approve of, I wouldn't care when his renewal was. I would write a letter off to the Liquor Control Commission and -- and tell them about it.

REBECCA BOMBERO: So there are some problems that would elevate to that level but if a bar has chronic, you know, problems at closing. It's not something that might rise to the level of, you know, notifying the DPC prior to the renewal, but it's something that should be taken into consideration when the renewal is made.

REP. ROVERO: All right. I disagree with you on that part because I think if someone is doing something like not closing when they're supposed to, serving minors or anything else like that, patronizing, let's see, prostitutes or gambling or anything else, dope pedaling, that letter should go out and not wait for renewal time, but that's just my opinion of someone who was in charge of a small town for a number of years.

Thank you very much for your time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you.

Any further questions?

Seeing none, I'd just like to ask you, since we passed this, like last year, what's the real world implication, how has it benefitted the city? I'm just curious.

REBECCA BOMBERO: Uh --

SENATOR DOYLE: Like give me hypotheticals, an example how it actually works.

REBECCA BOMBERO: So to date we haven't filed any written comment. The police department informed that there should be one coming in the next month or so. So we will have better examples for you but the intangibles are the better relationships we have with the over 100 bars in the city and that allows better communication between police and bars that sometimes at closing have you know fights that break out or we get -- we get over 10,000 people into downtown New Haven on some nights and having bars as willing partners in closing at 2 a.m. allows us to better manage that out flow onto those streets. So it has established better working relationships.

SENATOR DOYLE: So does this bill really provide leverage for that better partnership is that fair to say or --

REBECCA BOMBERO: I would say that relationships have improved in that period.

SENATOR DOYLE: This legislation encourages it you'd say.

REBECCA BOMBERO: It encourages it.

SENATOR DOYLE: Okay.

Any further comments or questions?

Seeing none, thank you very much.

Next speaker is Senator Dante Bartolomeo. Is Senator here? Seeing none, she is not.

Is Jay Hibbard here?



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**Testimony of the City of New Haven
Before the General Law Committee**

PS7 LN 17

Regarding

**SB 880 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THE
RENEWAL OF CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PERMITS**

Submitted by

Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief of Staff
February 26, 2013

Senator Doyle, Rep. Baram, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 880 An Act Concerning Municipal Police Departments and the Renewal of Certain Alcoholic Liquor Permits. In 2011 the General Assembly created a Pilot in the City of New Haven which allows the Chief of Police the opportunity to comment on liquor permit application renewals. The purpose of this bill would be to extend the pilot period to allow for the consideration of the report that is due to the legislature in February of 2014 prior to the sunset of the program and allow for due consideration of the continuation and expansion of the program.

In 2011 the City came to the General Assembly for help in dealing with problem bars as chronic issues existed at some liquor establishments in New Haven ranging from persistent drug dealing, to violence, to even homicide. The police department had spent considerable resources investigating activity at some of these establishments, yet when the establishment applied for a liquor permit renewals, the police department was often in the dark. With over one hundred establishments in the City with liquor permits, this bill allows the department to be notified when a liquor permit is up for renewal and to submit comment for consideration. The municipal police departments are the ones responding to and investigating problems at these establishments, and have the most knowledge of activities occurring at such establishments.

While the City has not had to submit comment on the renewal of a liquor permit, the ability to do so has improved relationships between law enforcement and local establishments. We now find willing partners in many bars when police offer suggestions on how to deal with problems at closing or when we suggest that additional security measures be undertaken. While there will always be room for improvement, in the past year there has been considerable improvement in the civility present at our liquor establishments, we feel in large part due to responsible management motivated by the new liquor permit renewal requirements.

As currently drafted the bill would extend the pilot period to June 30, 2014, but would also delay the report. We ask the committee to keep the original report date of February 2014 in place to allow for the continuous application of this program. When the General Assembly considers the full report we recommend that this opportunity then be given to every municipality in the state in 2014.

Thank you for your consideration.

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THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, on Calendar page 18, House Calendar Number 381, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on General Law, Substitute Senate Bill Number 880, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PERMITS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Vice Chairman of the General Law Committee, Representative Kiner.

REP. KINER (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

Mr. Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage in concurrence. Will you explain the bill, please, Representative Kiner.

REP. KINER (59th):

I will, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this bill simply extends the end date of a pilot program in the City of New Haven that the General Assembly approved in 2011. The date

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change, at the request of the City of New Haven is changing from December 31, 2013, to June 30, 2014, an extension of six months.

The pilot program allows the Chief of Police the opportunity to comment on liquor permit applications that are submitted to the Department of Consumer Protection. The original bill states that the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall submit a report detailing their findings of the pilot program to the General Assembly not later than February 1, 2014. This date does not change. There is no fiscal impact to the State or the municipality or city in this case. It passed the General Law Committee and the Senate unanimously.

Mr. Speaker, I move passage in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a question to the proponent of the bill if I may.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you to the kind Representative, does he have knowledge as to whether or not the -- this has been exercised by the city?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Kiner, do you care to respond?

REP. KINER (59th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Rebimbas, as of February 26, 2013, which was our public hearing date, the City of New Haven did submit testimony stating that they have not submitted any comment on any renewals, however, they believe that this pilot program has improved their relationship between law enforcement and these liquor establishments.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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And through you, Mr. Speaker, just again for clarifications, and we're extending this pilot program through what date or for what period of time?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Kiner.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The change in date is now until June 30, 2014.

The original date was December 31, 2013.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank you for the response regarding that. Certainly this is something that if the pilot program -- there's been testimony that it has assisted in any way, I think it's certainly a good one. I think, you know, having once heard the testimony read, the testimony regarding the submission of request for the pilot program, I recall that there was some testimony that, in fact, police chiefs from different cities and municipalities actually do have the ability to chime in and be able to be heard and file a complaint with

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the Department of Consumer Protection if there's any issues.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if the kind Representative could just confirm that that is the case. I just don't want other municipalities or cities to believe that but for this pilot program they would not have some type of mechanism or a process by which they can participate in being heard through any type of renewal for a liquor permit.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Kiner.

REP. KINER (59th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, I do not doubt that that is the case that some municipalities do offer this to their police departments, however, what we currently have in statute what I believe is that the fire marshal must sign off on the liquor permit applications and does not have to -- these establishments do not need to alert the local police department.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

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REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the Representative for his representations in that regard.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, do you know whether -- or do we know whether or not the City actually took any type of advertisement or information in getting the word out that they had that ability? I'm just trying to determine how it is that potentially maybe the knowledge of that right may have successfully deterred the necessity for the pilot program.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Kiner.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, I am not aware of how the local establishments were made aware of the law. The City of New Haven has stated that they do have a better relationship with these establishments since the passage of this pilot program.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

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REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, is there any fiscal note in the extension of this pilot program?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Kiner.

REP. KINER (59th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd like to thank the Representative for all of his responses. Certainly it seems that this is a pilot program that although it hasn't been exercised, it's one that's requested to be extended, there's no fiscal note implications regarding it, and maybe given the additional opportunity to examine it further, potentially it could be put to good use or certainly we can potentially see that maybe it won't be necessary. But the extension of time will provide us with enough time in order to then determine its future decision as to what to do with it in the future.

But thank you, Mr. Speaker, and once again thank the Representative for his responses.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, Madam.

The gentleman from the 96th, Representative Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to give great thanks to the Vice Chair of the General Law Committee, Representative Kiner, did an outstanding job summarizing the great qualities of this bill. Two years ago we passed this pilot program that allowed the City of New Haven to deal with the problem bars that we see so often in our community, over 100 bars in the City of New Haven. Oftentimes we saw events at closing times where there are often unruly behavior, lack of police forces on the street. The bars themselves were not good neighbors in so much of our community, and this bill allowed our local police department to weigh in on those reapplications for extensions of liquor permits.

And what we were able to do, upon the General Assembly's extension of this pilot program, was start to coordinate with those bars about how they can be

better neighbors in the city. This pilot program allowed us the opportunity to go to them and say from now on the police department will have the ability to weight in whether they seek to have their liquor permit extended. And it allowed us to enter into a more construction dialogue where now we can expect those bar owners on a day-to-day basis to properly monitor their closing times, to provide additional security officers for clubs and bars that get out at 2:00, 3:00 in the morning.

And we'll have the ability to work with problem bars in a more proactive manner than we ever had before because they know that our police department is watching. Too often in the past with so many bars in our city with a police department that is taxed for resources and officers, these bars would apply for reapplication and they would not know. And so instead now all of our officers are aware of the problem bars, that they come up for reapplication, we can do something about it.

So I thank you again, I thank everyone in the General Assembly for extending this pilot program to us two years ago. And because of it, we've really dramatically reduced the number of problems that we

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see in our city and will continue to do so over the next year. So thank you again.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Are you ready for the question? If so, staff and guests please come 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 call, members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber, please.

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

Mr. Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, Senate Bill Number 880 in concurrence with the Senate:

Total number voting	118
Necessary for passage	60
Those voting Yea	118

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Those voting Nay 0
Those absent and not voting 32

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is passed in concurrence.

Mr. Clerk, 457, please.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, page 49 of the House Calendar, House
Calendar Number 457, Favorable Report of the Joint
Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding.
House Bill Number 6448, AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE
FEES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Would the distinguished Chairman of the Judiciary
Committee, Representative Jerry Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you and good evening, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Good evening, sir.

REP. FOX (146th):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will
you explain the bill, please, sir.

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THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, moving to Calendar page 16, Calendar 156, Senate Bill Number 1004, Madam President, that item is marked go; the next item, Calendar 157, Senate Bill Number 1006 that item is also marked go.

Moving to Calendar page 17, Calendar 166 is marked -- that's Substitute for Senate Bill Number 752, marked go.

Moving to Calendar page 18, Madam President, Calendar 168, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 880, Madam President, move to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing on that page, Calendar 173, second item from the bottom of the page, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 874, Madam President, that item is marked go.

Continuing Calendar page 19, Madam President, Calendar 183, second item from the bottom of that page, Calendar 183, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 853, Madam President, would move to place this item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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Mr. Clerk, call for a roll call vote, but will you do the proceedings and go through and read the vote on the -- on that Consent Calendar. Read the bills on the Consent Calendar and the machine then will be opened.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 96, Senate Resolution Number 19, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JASON E. BOWSA OF BROAD BROOK TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION, favorable report of the Senate Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations.

Also on page 1 --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, if you'd like you can just read the Calendar Number --

THE CLERK:

Okay.

THE CHAIR:

-- and the Resolution Number. Okay.

THE CLERK:

Great.

Page 1, Calendar 97, Senate Resolution Number 20.

On page 2, Calendar 98, Senate Joint Resolution Number 46; also on page 2, Calendar 99, Senate Joint Resolution Number 47; page 2, Calendar 130, Senate Joint Resolution Number 21; page 2, Calendar 131, Senate Joint Resolution Number 48; page 2, Calendar 136, Senate Joint Resolution 49.

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On page 3, Calendar 197, Senate Joint Resolution Number 50; also on page 3, Calendar 198, Senate Joint Resolution Number 51; page 3, Calendar 245, Senate Resolution Number 22; page 3, Calendar 246, Senate

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Joint Resolution Number 23; page 3, Calendar 247,
Senate Joint Resolution Number 52.

And on page 4, Calendar 316, House Joint Resolution
Number 72; page 4, Calendar 317, House Joint
Resolution Number 73; also on page 4, Calendar 318,
House Joint Resolution Number 74; page 4, Calendar
319, House Joint Resolution Number 75.

On page 5, Calendar 320, House Joint Resolution Number
76; also on page 5, Calendar 321, House Joint
Resolution Number 77; page 5, Calendar 322, House
Joint Resolution Number 78; on page 5, 323 is the
Calendar, House Joint Resolution Number 79.

And on page 6, Calendar 324, House Joint Resolution
Number 80; also on page 6, Calendar 325, House Joint
Resolution 81; page 6, Calendar 326, House Joint
Resolution Number 82; page 6, Calendar 327, House
Joint Resolution Number 84.

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Calendar 328-HJR 84

On page 7, Calendar 329, House Joint Resolution Number
85; page 7, Calendar 330, House Joint Resolution
Number 86; page 7, Calendar 331, House Joint
Resolution Number 87; and on page 7, Calendar 332,
House Joint Resolution Number 88.

On page 13, Calendar 128 --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you also check page 11, Calendar
Number 1 -- 0111.

THE CLERK:

I think that was referred to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

It is the Consent Calendar, sir.

THE CLERK:

Oh, yes, yes, yes, you're right. Sorry about that.

On page 11, Calendar 111, Senate Bill Number 825.

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And on page 13, now, Calendar 128, Senate Bill --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you look at 127, also, please, 127,
Calendar 127.

THE CLERK:

Okay.

Calendar 127, Senate Bill Number 927; also on page 13,
Calendar 128, Senate Bill 1032; and on page 13,
Calendar 137, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 837.

On page 8 --

THE CHAIR:

-- 15.

THE CLERK:

-- 15, Calendar 151 --

THE CHAIR:

Senator, would you look at Calendar 147, please.

THE CLERK:

-- Calendar 147 --

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

THE CLERK:

-- Senate Bill Number 1061; also on page 15, Calendar
1 --

THE CHAIR:

-- 49.

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THE CLERK:

-- 49, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 909; on page 15, Calendar 151, Senate Bill Number 63.

And, now, on page 16, Calendar 156, Senate Bill Number 1004; also Calendar 157, Senate Bill Number 1006.

And on page 18, Calendar 173, Substitute --

THE CHAIR:

-- Mr. Clerk, can you look at 168 first, please.

THE CLERK:

I'm sorry.

Calendar 168, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 880, and Calendar 173, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 874.

On page 19; Calendar 183, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 853.

And on page 20, Calendar 187, Senate Bill Number 953; also on page 20, Calendar 191, Senate Bill Number 704.

On page 22, Calendar 206, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 950.

On page 23, Calendar 213, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 826.

On page 24, Calendar 221, Senate Bill Number 946.

And on page 29, Calendar 25 --

THE CHAIR:

Sir, on page 28, first.

THE CLERK:

I'm sorry.

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Page 28, Calendar 250, Substitute for Senate Bill
Number 1010.

And on page 29, Calendar 258, Substitute for Senate
Bill Number 1073.

On page 37, Calendar 306, Senate Bill Number 111.

And I think that's it.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, I think so.

This time I'll ask everybody to please vote. The machine is open, and we're voting on the Consent Calendar.

Do you -- would you please announce it again, Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate,
voting today's Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

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The Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, a couple of additional items. First of all, on a matter adopted earlier today, Calendar 344, Substitute for House Bill Number 6648, would ask for a suspension for immediate transmittal of that item to the Governor.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, for a couple of -- of items for recommittals on the last -- near the end of the Calendar, Calendar page 52, under "Favorable Reports and Resolutions," Calendar 34, Senate Resolution Number 8, I would move to recommit that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also, Madam President, Calendar 212, Senate Resolution Number 14, I move to recommit that item to the Education Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.