

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-129

HB5273

House	816-821	6
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<u>Commerce</u>	<u>11, 17, 337</u>	<u>3</u>
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
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On page 3 of today's calendar, Calendar 51, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, House Bill 5273, AN ACT RESTORING THE COMMISSION OF -- COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S AUTHORITY -- or -- DUTY TO DETERMINE WHETHER SURPLUS STATE PROPERTY CAN BE USED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee, Representative Perone, you have the floor.

REP. PERONE (137th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The pressure is on. Thank you very much. Basically -- has the bill been called?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

It has not been called. I am recognizing you for the purpose of calling the bill.

REP. PERONE (137th):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call -- sorry about that. The first bill of the season, you know -- Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSIONER OF --

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

I think, Representative Perone, I think you'd like to move acceptance.

REP. PERONE (137th):

I move acceptance of House Bill Number 5273 --

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Of the Joint Committee's favorable report --

REP. PERONE (137th):

-- of the Joint Committee's favorable report.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

And I think you also are moving passage of the bill, is that correct?

REP. PERONE (137th):

And move passage of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. PERONE (137th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Essentially, legislation during last year's session substituted the newly created Department of Housing in lieu of DECD -- a DECD bill surplus state

property statute. Essentially, the bill -- this bill would restore the DECD commissioner's duty to determine whether surplus state property could be used for economic development. Current law requires housing -- the housing commissioner to make this determination.

In doing so, this bill limits the housing commissioner's duty regarding surplus state property, determining if it can be used as low-income housing or a shelter for homeless individuals. So, essentially, the DECD should have the authority to determine whether the property can be used or adapted for economic and development purposes, but that power was inadvertently given to the Department of Housing. Through you, Mr. Speaker -- through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

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

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the Representative for his exposition of the bill. I understood in committee that -- that

this was sort of an oversight that's being technically corrected. And I just -- I have only one question for the Representative and that is just to clarify that my understanding of the process as it will stand with the bill is correct.

As I understand it, the bill stipulates that from now on the Department of Housing will notify OPM that a property that had been designated for housing or that was under its aegis is available for other uses and that OPM will, then, make that public to various agencies and it is up to DECD to decide whether or not the property can be used for economic development. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Perone.

REP. PERONE (137th):

That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I think this bill makes eminent sense and I would suggest to my colleagues to support it. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill 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 to make sure your vote is 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:

House Bill 5273.

Total number voting 145

Necessary for passage 73

Those voting Yea 145

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 129.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, on page 8, Calendar 129, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on General Law, substitute House Bill 5259, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DEBIT CARDS FOR GASOLINE PURCHASES AND NOTIFICATION TO THE HANDICAPPED DRIVERS OF SELF-SERVICE PUMP REFUELING SERVICES.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Baram, you have the floor.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir.

REP. BARAM (15th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill addresses two issues. The first issue is that a decal has to be

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May 6, 2014

(Chamber at ease).

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I believe the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 2, dated Tuesday, May 6, 2014. It's been copied and is on Senators' desks.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agenda Number 2, dated Tuesday, May 6, 2014, to be acted upon as indicated that the Agenda be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and the Senate Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I have some items to place on the Consent Calendar to be followed by some others that we need to verify.

First, Madam President, Calendar page 7, Calendar 340, House Bill 5273, would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

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Opposed. Reconsideration is passed.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Right now since the matter is before us again, Madam President, I would move to mark it passed temporarily.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Now if the Clerk would call those Consent Calendar items so that we might move to a vote on the Consent Calendar, and then we might proceed to the items that were marked go.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 2 Calendar 166, Senate Bill 427.

Page 4 Calendar 300 Senate Bill 417.

Page 6, Calendar 331, House Bill 5248.

Page 7, Calendar 340, House bill 5273.

On page 10, Calendar 416, House Bill 5407. Calendar 415, House Bill 5518. Calendar 396, Senate Bill 114.

On page 11, Calendar 419, House Bill 5477.

Page 12, Calendar 426, House Bill 5023.

On page 18, Calendar 489, House Bill 5227. Calendar 470, House Bill 5506. Calendar 490, House Bill 5113.

On page 19, Calendar 494, House Bill 5573.

Page 20, Calendar 498, House Bill 5467. Calendar 499, House Bill 5419.

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And on page 22 Calendar 513, House Bill 5353.
Calendar 515, House Bill 5361.

And on page 24, Calendar 526, House Bill 5556.
Calendar 524, House Bill 5219.

Page 25, Calendar 4 -- sorry, Calendar 530, House Bill 5368,
page 27, Calendar 546, House Bill 5061.
Calendar 543, House Bill 5037.

On page 28, Calendar 550, House Bill 5514.

Page 29, Calendar 554, House Bill 5148.

Page 30, Calendar 563, House Bill 5554.

Page 31, Calendar 567, House Bill 5229. Calendar 565,
House Bill 5028.

And on page 42, Calendar 384, Senate Bill 442.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney, do you have any more good news for us?

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. One additional item
to add before we call for the actual vote on the
Consent Calendar, and that is item an Calendar page
33, Calendar 575, House Bill 5359. With that one
addition it would call for a vote on the Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a vote on the Consent
Calendar, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call on the second Consent Calendar
today has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

On the second Consent Calendar for today.

Total number voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would call the first item marked go to follow the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 33, Calendar 579, Substitute for House Bill Number 5348, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES. Favorable Report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Pursuant to Rule 15 of the Joint Rules, I am recusing myself from consideration of this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Please leave the Chamber.

**JOINT
STANDING
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first; and secondly, we'll hear from the, from the public.

We have some important bills on our agenda today, the Governor's bills, some important bills that have been brought forth by members of this committee, both in this year and in -- in some cases up for a second time. And hopefully they're going to make it all the way this year.

So let's, without further adieu, let's get started. And the, appropriately, the -- the first person on our agenda is Commissioner Smith.

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE H. SMITH: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. It's a delight to be with you today.

I'm Catherine Smith; I'm the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, and we have submitted to you a number of pieces of testimony regarding several different bills that are before the committee. Rather than go through all of them today, I thought it might be more appropriate just to talk about a few of them, and -- and then I would be, of course, happy to take any questions that the committee members might have.

Is that satisfactory, Senator LeBeau?

SENATOR LeBEAU: That would be great. I -- I think it would be helpful if you went in ascending order.

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE H. SMITH: Ascending order.

SENATOR LeBEAU: In terms of numbers. Start off with Senate Bill 23 and go from there.

SB 231
HB 5041
HB 5270
HB 5272
HB 5273
HB 5275
HB 5004

I can tell you that there have been a couple of nuances that have come up since the legislation was introduced that may need a little bit of tweaking, one being about grandfathering existing tax credit holders in, into their existing programs, and then finally around transferability between entities. So those two areas aside, I think we're very much supportive of the legislation as it stands and would urge the committee to enact it.

Then we have the H.B. 5273, which is AN ACT RESTORING THE COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S DUTY TO DETERMINE WHETHER SURPLUS STATE PROPERTY CAN BE USED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Again, we support this. It's a, truly a, again, another attempt to improve our overall competitiveness and allow us to attract and retain business jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, et cetera.

So I think, with that, I will stop, and -- and there are several other bills that you have before you that I'd be happy to answer questions about, but those are the primary ones that we are focused on this morning.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR LeBEAU: Well, thank you, Commissioner.

Just a -- a comment: Representative Perone, before, he has a, some business in his districts, so he'll be late for the meeting. So I wanted to explain that.

And the members are, wanted to ask questions about the UTC deal, I would ask -- that was in and announced yesterday and in this morning's newspapers and on the news last night -- we -- we are tentatively scheduling a joint committee hearing with the Finance Committee; Commerce

HB5041



Catherine H. Smith
Commissioner

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Connecticut
still revolutionary

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
2/27/14

Re: **HB 5273: AN ACT RESTORING THE COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S DUTY TO DETERMINE WHETHER SURPLUS STATE PROPERTY CAN BE USED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Lavielle and members of the Commerce Committee. Thanks for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5273: An Act Restoring the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development's Duty to Determine Whether Surplus State Property Can Be Used for Economic Development Purposes.

As you are aware, our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

Legislation during last year's session, PA 13-234, substituted the newly created Department of Housing in lieu of DECD in C.G.S. § 4b-21 – a surplus state property statute. One aspect of the change, pertaining to emergency shelters and transitional living facilities, was warranted. However, § 4b-21 needs to be modified to restore the determination of whether surplus state property can be used or adapted for economic development purposes back to DECD's purview. HB 5273 makes the requisite modification.

As a result, I encourage your support.