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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

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The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 412?

THE CLERK:

On page 25, House Calendar 412, favorable report of the joint standing committee on Government and Administration and Elections. Senate Bill 95.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question is on acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill changes the name of the Advisory Council to the Superior Court Housing session to the Connecticut Advisory Council on Housing Matters. It also increases the Council's membership from 12 to 18 members. Mr. Speaker, the council is a State Advisory

Board on the Housing Court System. A little bit of history here. This bill modifies some changes that were made last year in our streamlining bill. One of the things that the streamlining bill did was change the name, and it changed the name in a way that implied a significantly reduced function for the council as if it were to focus more simply on the Housing Court as opposed to having a broader mission, and in addition to advising the Judicial Branch on the Housing Courts, the council also makes recommendations to the Chief State's Attorney, to Executive Branch Agencies, to the Governor, and to the General Assembly on housing matters in general. So, that's the first thing that the bill does.

The second is increasing the size from 12 to 18 of the membership of the council, and last year we reduced the council from 36 down to 12 members, and there was general agreement that 36 was an unwieldy number and we should reduce the membership of the council. There's a similar consensus that going to 12, we went a little bit too far, so now we're proposing to increase the membership by 6 to 18 members which is still half of what we had on the council prior to the change in 2013. So, Mr. Speaker,

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I think this is a good bill. It's a simple bill and I would urge my colleagues to support it.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

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

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple questions to the proponent of the bill. Through you, sir.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

We changed the numbers but it did not increase the number of population that was covered. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

The council covers the entire state, but the council is broken down into four districts but three of those districts have Housing Courts, the fourth one

doesn't. So the proposal is to add two members to each of the three districts that have Housing Courts in order to be able to create more functional subcommittees within those three districts.

Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that came out of the -- the changes from our plans last year in consolidating this agency was that we have found that attendance requirements to this program was -- was difficult to fulfill. Could -- did this bill rectify some of that concern?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Jutila.

REP. JUTILA (37th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that's a very good question from the distinguished ranking member. It -- it will be by reducing from 36 all the way down to 12, then the bare bones subcommittees that the council was able to put together if a member or two couldn't make it, it really prevented those subcommittees from

functioning the way they need to.

Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, more importantly it fixes a problem to ensure that housing matters are cared for on a timely basis particularly in this day and age where it's such a critical matter. I urge support of this bill and it's a good bill -- (inaudible) and ought to pass.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark? Do 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 report to the chamber immediately?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

I would just encourage members to stay close to

the chamber. We are going to try to get a few bills done rapidly so we can get out this evening. So, please stay close. We'll be calling the vote very quickly.

Have all the members voted?

Again, we're asking members to please stay close to the chamber. We'll be calling votes relatively quickly. We're trying to get through a few before we leave for the evening.

. If all the members voted, will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast?

Again, please stay close to the chamber, members.

If all the votes -- if all the members have checked the board to make sure your vote is properly cast, and if all have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 95, in concurrence.

Total number voting	142
Necessary for passage	72
Those voting Yea	142
Those voting Nay	0

Those absent and not voting 9

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as passes in concurrence with the
Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 358?

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 358, favorable report of the
joint standing committee on Judiciary, House Bill
5219, AN ACT CONCERNING MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE
EASEMENTS AND RIGHT OF WAY.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the
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, sir?

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What this bill does is it makes it clear that the
owner of a property that benefits from a private

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THE CHAIR:

If there is no objections, so ordered.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. Clerk, would you return to the call of the Calendar, please.

THE CLERK:

On page 8, Calendar 74, Senate Bill Number 95, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP AND NAME OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE SUPERIOR COURT ON HOUSING SESSION; Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Good afternoon, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Mr. President, I move the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval and acceptance of the bill, will you remark further?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Yes, Mr. President. For the members' edification, this is a very simple bill. It really does nothing more than changing the name of the Housing Advisory Council Superior Court to conform to some of the

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reorganization we did last year and increases the number of council members from 12 to 18, the reason for that being that they do have some local jobs they have to do on the advisory council, getting to all the local courthouses, looking at the housing sessions, and they found it tough to do with only 12 members to scatter throughout the state.

So that's what the bill does. It is perhaps the most innocuous bill I've ever brought before this -- this fine body, and I would just ask for the Circle's acceptance of the bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Simplicity is certainly a virtue.

Any further remarks?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Mr. President, if there is no objection, I would request this item be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, would you please return to the call of the Calendar, please.

THE CLERK:

Also on page 8, Calendar 78, Senate Bill Number 186, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPENSATION AND INSURANCE COVERAGE OF A PRESCRIBED DRUG DURING REVIEW OF AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION OR A FINAL ADVERSE DETERMINATION; Favorable Report of the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

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Page 8, Calendar 74, Senate Bill Number 95; also on page 8, Calendar 80, Senate Bill 188.

On Calendar page 9 -- I'm sorry -- on page, yeah, page 9, Calendar 110, Senate Bill 125; Calendar 112, Senate Bill 255; Calendar 113, Senate Bill Number 256; Calendar 122, Senate Bill 260.

On page 11, Calendar 163, Senate Bill 280; Calendar 177, Senate Bill 271.

On page 13, Calendar 207, Senate Bill Number 193.

On page 14, Calendar 225, Senate Bill Number 281.

On page 15, Calendar 244, Senate Bill 283.

Page 17, Calendar 255, Senate Bill 477.

On page 23, Calendar 288, Senate Bill 413; Calendar 290, Senate Bill 418.

And on page 25, Calendar 303, Senate Bill Number 217.

THE CHAIR:

I'm sorry. At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open on the second Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

If all members voted, all members voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the second Consent Calendar for today.

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Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent, not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes.

Mr. Clerk -- oh, I'm sorry -- Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if we might go back to the item that was removed from Consent and ask for a roll call vote on that item. That was Calendar page 8, Calendar 78, Senate Bill 186.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call ordered in the Senate. An
immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted; all members voted? The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 186.

Total Number Voting	33
Those voting Yea	23
Those voting Nay	10
Absent, not voting	3

**JOINT
STANDING
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HEARINGS**

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SENATOR MUSTO: Just -- I'm going to take a minute here as the Chair and ask Ms. Pearlman, could you hang around a little bit after this? We're going to want some feedback on this, at least I will on this issue. Thank you.

Next up Mr. Podosky -- Podolsky, excuse me.

SB95
RAPHAEL L. PODOLSKY: Thank you very much. I'm here in a -- different from my usual role on behalf of a state advisory board known as the Advisory Council to the Superior Court Housing Session. The Board goes back to 1978 when the first housing court was created and at the time -- and until last year it was known as the Citizens Advisory Council for Housing Matters.

The -- the Advisory Council has been very much involved in how courts handle housing matters and has been a -- a long-time advocate for making the court user-friendly and accessible to pro ses. Back in the 1980s the -- the Advisory Council was a pioneer in pushing for pro se forms in that part of the court system.

I'm here on behalf of the Council because last year Public Act 13-299, which is an omnibus bill on government agencies, in Committee you added some changes. You changed the name of the Council. You changed the size.

The Council, unfortunately, never noticed this bill at the time and only noticed it afterwards and asked for this bill to make two what I think are small changes in the Council.

One is they ask for the -- for the -- its name to be changed to something closer to its old name. The reason is housing matters, the Council on Housing Matters, adequately describes what it does so that phrase was in

its old name.

The new name, which refers to it as an advisory board to the Superior Court, doesn't really reflect anywhere near all of what the Advisory Council does and -- and we have some concern that it's going to lead unintentionally to a restricting of its functions.

The second thing is Council had a huge membership, 36 members, and last year's bill cut it to 12. There's no question that there's no need for 36 members on the board but what the bill asks is that we add -- that you add back six members to the size and the reason for doing that is it allows it more effectively to function in sub-committee in housing court districts.

It would put five people instead of three people on each of the three major regional sub-committees.

That's really all that we're asking. I don't know that anybody cares about this other than the Council itself and I would hope you would be willing to do that. I think it will make the Council function more -- more efficiently, more effectively and will more -- and will -- will better more correctly state what the Council is about and what it does.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you'd like. The Council is on the Judicial -- on the State of Connecticut website. It's -- does biannual reports. They're all on the website. Its minutes are all on the website. There is no staff connected with this board at all. No one is paid. Members basically function on their own -- function with their own resources.

Thank you.

SENATOR MUSTO: Thank you. Good timing, Raph.

For those -- we didn't announce it before but generally during this session we allow people three minutes to speak. No -- so far you're the only one that's rung the bell so that's good news.

Are there any questions from members of the Committee? No?

Thank you.

RAPHAEL L. PODOLSKY: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MUSTO: Real quick, Mr. Roda, would you sit down there for a second? Mr. Roda, you had heard what the -- the lady after you, Ms. Basford, had mentioned.

HB 5125

Do you -- you were nodding sort of in the background along with some of your colleagues. Is that pretty much your understanding as well as to how this should work per 50 --

CARMEN A. RODA: Yes.

SENATOR MUSTO: Okay. I just wanted to confirm, you know, before -- it seems like there are a lot of people here about it. It seems like an issue. I want to make sure everybody is sort of on the same page.

CARMEN A. RODA: It is -- it is an issue. We are not opposed to our job performance appraisals being out to anybody. We are not opposed to our job functions, whether it was -- somebody was unfortunately disciplined being offered to our clients.