

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-90

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

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rc/gdm/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

471
May 6, 2014

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 531, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding, Substitute Senate Bill 475, AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATUS CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill?

Will you remark, sir?

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is our annual school construction bill. The measure before us includes 21 new school construction projects. It also reauthorizes and changes some grant commitments due to costs and scope changes for six previously-authorized local projects, and three previously-authorized technical high schools.

The bill also gives the DAS Commissioner power to issue waivers under certain conditions for school construction projects related to safety infrastructure, and it expands the membership of the School Safety Infrastructure Council.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 5529, previously designated Senate "A". I ask that the Clerk please call and I be given permission to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5529, which has been previously designated Senate Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

Senate "A" 5529, introduced by Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentleman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection?

Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, sir.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So this is an amendment to the school construction bill that we do annually that includes an array of good projects. First and foremost, it's got a number of sections that clarify that our

Commissioner of Administrative Services shall oversee various functions that used to be in the State Department of Education which is really to conform to current practice. And then, it has projects that maybe had various defects due to the date that a project was submitted, or some of the details that we're addressing here.

I'd like to thank my friends on the Republican side of the aisle and the House, both sides of the aisle in the Senate. This really represents a four-caucus collaboration, and I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption. Would you care to remark?

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And as the good Chair said, this is a collaborative effort. I do want to say that, you know, many of these projects are -- are extremely important to our communities, and I urge all in the Chamber to support these projects, and thank the good Chair and his work.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Do you care to remark? Do you care to remark

further on Senate Amendment "A"?

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

REPRESENTATIVES:

"Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

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 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 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.

We are trying to move some of these bills rapidly, so if members can please stay close to the

Chamber, we'd appreciate it.

Representative Verrengia, for what reason do you rise?

REP. VERRENGIA (20th):

I'd like my vote recorded in the affirmative.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Mr. Clerk, please indicate Representative Verrengia's vote in the affirmative. Recalculate the vote.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 475 as amended by Senate "A".

Total Number Voting 144

Necessary for Passage 73

Those Voting Yea 142

Those Voting Nay 2

Those Absent and Not Voting 7

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill passes -- the bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 490?

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 490, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment, Substitute Senate Bill 445, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE SALE OF CATS AND DOGS FROM INHUMANE ORIGINS AT CONNECTICUT

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-- Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Madame President, while waiting for the amendment on Senate Bill 29, we do have the school construction bill ready to go and that item is on Calendar Page 10, Calendar 388, substitute for Senate Bill Number 475 and if the Clerk would call that as the next item.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 10, Calendar 388, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 475, AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS. Favorable report of the Committee on Education. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Madame President. Good evening to you as well.

I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Yes, thank you, Madame President.

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This bill is our annual school construction bill. The original bill that came out of committee authorizes the DAS Commissioner to enter into grant commitments on behalf of the state for 21 new school construction projects. It authorizes state grants totaling \$180.7 million related -- total projects costs of \$309 million and it reauthorizes and changes grant commitments due to cost and scope changes, et cetera.

The bill also expands the membership of the school safety infrastructure council by adding one member the Governor appoints who must be a licensed building official. And the bill that came out of committee listed a variety of schools that met the deadline to be on the list within the original bill.

With that, Madame President, I would like to call an amendment, LCO Number 5529. If the Clerk could call it and I be allowed to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5529, Senate "A" offered by Senator Stillman and Representative Fleischmann.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Thank you, Madame President.

The amendment before you, which I move adoption on --

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption.

Will you remark, ma'am?

SENATOR STILLMAN:

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Yes, thank you -- has a variety of projects in there that unfortunately did not make the list in a timely fashion. They have met the guidelines since then of seeking a waiver or whatever was necessary so that they can be eligible to move forward or to receive dollars cover some costs that were unexpected and I urge adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madame President.

Madame President, I rise to support the amendment and thank the good Chairwoman of the Education Committee. Connecticut usually -- Legislature usually does this in a bipartisan fashion to accommodate various needs of our educational community so that they can pursue the important mission in each of our towns and cities. Thank you, Madame President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, I'll try your minds.

All those in favor of Senate "A" please say aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed?

Senate "A" passes.

Will you remark?

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Senator Stillman.

SENATOR STILLMAN:

Yes, thank you, Madame President.

With that, that sums up the totality of the bill. If there isn't any objection, I'd like to ask for a roll call --

THE CHAIR:

Are we going to start -- no, okay. A roll call vote, please. Thank you.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Speaking in support of the bill, obviously I wanted to compliment Senator Stillman for all of her superb work both on the school construction bill and of course on all of the other bills from the Education Committee. And this is a matter of course of great importance to both Chambers. So that's why I would request a roll call vote so that we might immediately transmit this item to the House upon completion of Senate action.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

If not, Mr. Clerk will you please call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

Have all member voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please

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call the tally?

THE CLERK:

Total Number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	10
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Madame President, I move for immediate transmittal of
the last enacted item, Calendar 388, Substitute for
Senate Bill 475, to the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

If we might stand at ease for just a moment?

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madame President.

THE CHAIR:

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think they should have the proper training to be able to read as well as you. That was a -- that was a tremendous job you did presenting that testimony, and we really appreciate it. Are there questions from members of the committee? If not, thank you very much and let me just say you have -- you do have a career available to you in speech writing and public speaking if you decide to pursue that road. Thank you very much for your time.

ADAM GLASSMAN: You're welcome.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Is Representative Ziobron here? You're up next, to be followed by Otto Leary Cahill.

Welcome.

REP. ZIOBRON: Thank you. I don't know if I can follow that -- that testimony, but I'm going to try my best.

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, and Representative Ackert, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm here to support two separate bills.

The first is SB 473, AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOLS. This bill would require the parent or guardian of a student who will be enrolled in a magnet school, or whose name has been placed on a waiting list for a magnet school, to notify the School District in which such student

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resides of such enrollment or placement. This is crucial to enable our local Boards of Education the ability to properly plan and budget.

When I met with my local school leaders, this was something that was of a concern, and one that I thought was fairly easy to amend. In one town that I represent, East Hampton, they discovered after the budget was completed, that they would have 110 students going out of district. One can imagine how even losing a handful of students could cause for significant changes in course availability, teacher coverage, and class size. I believe this is a valuable tool for school districts, and it would allow them to plan more effectively as dollars for education are being stretched to the breaking point. This is an important tool that we can provide schools that will not cost a dime. I encourage your support.

The second is S.B. 475, which is the ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS. Very quickly, I just wanted to also give my support to this bill. The same community, East Hampton, has been working diligently on a very large project. In fact, it's the biggest project in the town's history, and this project began with parents and community activists who spearheaded the referendum. Now it rests with professional and qualified members of the School Building Committee. I strongly support this bill and encourage your support.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you for your testimony, and for your clear understanding of the exact reason we introduced the bills that you talked about.

Are there questions or comments from members of the committee? If not, thank you for your time and your advocacy.

Otto Learsy Cahill. Has already left. Okay.

Then Representative Juan Candelaria, to be followed by Iliana Pujols, Cheyenne Williams, and Nick Ortiz.

REP. CANDELARIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd ask good morning, but I guess at this time it would be good afternoon.

Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Ackert, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, my name is Representative Juan Candelaria, and I represent the 95th District in New Haven.

I am here to express my strong support for Senate Bill 476, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP. As of last year, 13.4 percent of Connecticut residents were foreign born; 17.7 percent were Latino or Asian; and 49.4 percent of immigrants in this state are naturalized US Citizens. 11.3 percent registered voters are new Americans, and 86.2 of children with immigrant parents are US citizens.