

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-91

SB19

House	6959-6962	4
Senate	468-469, 625-627	5
Higher <u>Education</u>	339-341, 345-346	5
		14

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

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Those absent and not voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill, as amended, is passed.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit to the Senate any items waiting further action.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Without objection, so ordered.

Representative Aresimowicz, I understand we have another Consent Calendar.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We are. We are about to list off the bills that will be included in our second Consent Calendar for the evening, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed, sir.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I move -- I'd to add the following to the Consent Calendar. Calendar 426, Calendar 308, Calendar 438, Calendar 488 --

SB281

SB19

SB182

SB330

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Whoa, whoa, whoa.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

I apologize, Mr. Speaker. The first number was
427.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

So 427, thank you, sir. Proceed.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Calendar 476, as amended by Senate "A"; Calendar
445, Calendar 514, Calendar 505, as amended by Senate
"A"; Calendar 455, Calendar 456, as amended by Senate
"A"; Calendar 322, Calendar 536, as amended by Senate
"A" and Senate "B"; Calendar 430, Calendar 520, as
amended by Senate "A" and Senate "B"; Calendar 538, as
amended by Senate "A"; Calendar 424, as amended by
Senate "A"; Calendar 439, as amended by Senate "A";
Calendar 482, as amended by Senate "A"; Calendar 325,
as amended by Senate "A."

Calendar 526, as amended by Senate "A"; Calendar
509, as amended by Senate "A"; Calendar 532, Calendar
502, as amended by Senate "A"; Calendar 421, as
amended by Senate "A"; Calendar 431, as amended by
Senate "A"; and Calendar 539, as amended by Senate
"A."

- SB 194
- SB 402
- SB 324
- SB 45
- SB 221
- SB 257
- SB 201
- SB 389
- SB 418
- SB 438
- SB 427
- SB 260
- SB 208
- SB 424
- SB 241
- SB 14
- SB 106
- SB 322
- SB 410
- SB 217
- SB 477
- SB 429

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Is there objection to any of these items being placed on the Consent Calendar? If not, Representative Aresimowicz, would you like to move passage of the Consent Calendar?

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker, I want to remove Calendar 539.

SB429

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Please remove Calendar 539, Mr. Clerk.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker, I move passage of the bills on the second Consent Calendar of the day.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on passage of the items on Consent Calendar Number 2.

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.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll on the second Consent Calendar of the day, House Consent 2. Please report to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

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

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

The Clerk will take a tally.

And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total Number Voting 147

Necessary for Passage 74

Those voting Yea 147

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 4

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The items on the Consent Calendar are passed.

(Speaker Sharkey in the Chair.)

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The House will please come back to order.

Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified
Bill 5597.

THE CLERK:

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THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 6, Calendar 63, Senate Bill Number 19 AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS. Favorable Report of the Committee on Higher Education.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thanks again, Madam Chair. You caught me off guard a little here.

THE CHAIR:

Sorry about that. Take your time, sir. The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Senate Bill 19. I would move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill, waive its reading, seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR CASSANO:

Yes. This is AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS. We have actually two different systems, one through UConn and one through the Board of Regents. What this does is standardize that and so we have one system, which will benefit everyone and those rules will continue to be overseen by the State Office of Higher Education, so I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I also rise to support this bill. It obviously codifies practice that is already in, that they're already doing right now and I would propose that this might be something that the good Chairman might consider for a Consent Calendar. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO:

If there are no objections, I'd ask to be put on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark? Any objections? Seeing no objections, the bill will be put on Consent.

SENATOR CASSANO:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

Consent Calendar Number 2. On Page 6, Calendar 63,
Senate Bill Number 19.

On Page 7, Calendar 64, Senate Bill Number 20.

Also on Page 7, Calendar 71, Senate Bill 241.

On Page 12, Calendar 156, Senate Bill Number 207.

And on Page 14, Calendar 165, Senate Bill 115.

Page 15, Calendar 171, Senate Bill Number 313.

And on Page 16, Calendar 179, Senate Bill Number 376.

Also on Page 16, Calendar 182, Senate Bill Number 101.

And on Page 17, Calendar 184, Senate Bill Number 247.

Page 19, Calendar 200, Senate Bill 205.

On Page 20, Calendar 201, Senate Bill Number 82.

On Page 35, Calendar 69, Senate Bill 63.

Calendar 75, Senate Bill 112.

And Calendar 77, Senate Bill Number 364.

On Page 36, Calendar 88, Senate Bill 100.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. When the Clerk was reading those items, wanted to inquire on the status of Calendar Page 7, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 92.

THE CLERK:

And I should have read, Page 7, Calendar 72, Senate Bill 92.

THE CHAIR:

That's also on the Consent Calendar. Is that correct?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could I ask you about Page 8. I don't know if there has been marked, which bill, Page 8, Calendar 76, 113? Did you say that?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam President. It is on the Second Consent Calendar for today.

THE CHAIR:

And Page 9, Calendar 84, Bill 201. Was that read, sir?

THE CLERK:

Yes, ma'am.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call is ordered in the Senate.

Immediate Roll Call on the Second Consent Calendar for today is ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members voted, the machine will be closed. I ask the Clerk to please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the Second Consent Calendar for today.

Total number voting

36

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

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Madam President. Thank you. Madam President, would move that all of the bills referred to various Committees earlier in the Session, that those bills be immediately transmitted to the Committees to which they were referred.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the Clerk would now call an item that was marked passed temporarily earlier, and that was Calendar Page 9, Calendar 108, Senate Bill 36.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 108, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 36 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE. Favorable Report of the Committee on Public Health, and there are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

**JOINT
STANDING
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HEARINGS**

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REP. WILLIS: Go for it.

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Thank you, Roberta for recognizing that it's there somewhere.

Good afternoon, Senator Cassano, Representative Willis and Senator Boucher and members of the Committee. You have my testimony that I've submitted. So, I'll just try to -- try to summarize.

We have three technical bills that we have before you -- before you today. That this office has submitted. The first is Senate Bill 18, An Act Concerning the English Language Learner's Educator Incentive Program. That bill, an idea that came out of this committee, I believe, several years ago. And this a repeat fix that we tried to put in last year. And somehow it never -- it never was enacted. So that we would be able to -- these are the technical fixes. We need to be able to allow students to be able to participate in the important financial aid program.

The second bill is Senate Bill 19, An Act Establishing Uniform Academic Degree Standards. There's been some discussion over the last -- since reorganization as to whether or not the statute is perfectly clear after re-org. And to regulate this -- this will just make sure that the regulations concerning academic standards do in fact apply to all institutions of higher education in Connecticut.

I mean, I think it's clear. The General Assembly with your floor debate made it pretty clear. But because I -- I guess I was being a little pro-active, I sought guidance from the Attorney General's Office. And their language is attached to our testimony. So to be clear, this is the current practice since re-org. And in fact, before re-org so nothing will -- nothing really does change. It just makes it clearer in statute that everybody has to abide

SB 20

by the same regulations.

The final bill is Senate Bill 20, An Act Concerning the Minority Advancement Program. This bill is yet another technical change due to the result of the re-org. The MAP program and the funding as remained in the office of Higher Education but the statutory reporting on these programs has been transferred between the BOR and our office at least twice.

So, what we decided to do was take the -- the -- we now everything in our office. The portion of the statute that has us reporting on the information on hiring practices of the -- of the constituent units is directly sent now by the constituent units to the CHRO. So it seemed redundant to ask us to report on that since it's already reported to the -- to the state's CHRO. What we will continue to do is -- is report on the programmatic aspects of the grant program, the competitive program that we run.

I'd be more than happy to answer any questions if you -- if you have any .

SENATOR CASSANO: One quick question.

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Yes.

SENATOR CASSANO: Senate Bill 18, is there any change in this from what was brought before last year?

JANE CIARLEGLIO: No. The language actually is exactly the same.

SENATOR CASSANO: Exactly the same.

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Yes.

SENATOR CASSANO: And on 19, all institutions of higher education, does this include on-line institutions? Or does is it those that are housed here in Connecticut?

JANE CIARLEGLIO: The ones that are licensed and accredited in Connecticut. Yes.

SENATOR CASSANO: Thank you.

REP. WILLIS: Just a comment for the rest of the committee on Senate Bill 18. Senate Bill 18 got hung up at the end of session and so it was -- it really was the log jam at the end that it didn't make it across the finish line.

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Yes.

REP. WILLIS: I'm thinking the House.

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Yes.

REP. WILLIS: So, we promised at that time Senator Bye and I that we would work to reconsider this first thing --

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Yes.

REP. WILLIS: -- this year. So, I just wanted to clarify that.

REP. SAWYER: Hello, Miss Jane with the big heart.

JANE CIARLEGLIO: Okay. Let's not get carried away.

REP. SAWYER: In looking at Senate Bill 18 -- you know -- one of the problems that I had with it last year and I still have it this year, I love the bill. I just hate putting a fine right dollar amount in it. Just because of the way costs are going and whatever. And every time we have to change a piece of legislation, it comes back here. It gets stuck into the mess like it got stuck in last year. And it takes another year or two to get it fixed.

So, in lines 51 and 52 where it talks about maximum grant shall not exceed \$5,000 per



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Higher Education

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Testimony
by
Jane A. Ciarleglio
Executive Director, Office of Higher Education
before the
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
1:00 p.m. – LOB Room 1E
Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Senator Cassano, Representative Willis, Senator Boucher, Representative LeGejt and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony this afternoon. I would like to speak to three bills involving the Office of Higher Education.

SB20

First, I would like to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 18 (RAISED) - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER EDUCATOR INCENTIVE PROGRAM. The original language of this program, because of technical issues, did not allow our agency to administer this program. Senate Bill 18 corrects these deficiencies, and allows us to run this program as originally intended. This program will provide much needed college tuition assistance and loan relief to students who are interested in becoming English language learner educators. Equally important, it provides a strong incentive for these individuals to take added steps to pursue their endorsement in teaching English to speakers of other languages or bilingual education studies at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The second bill I wish to speak to is Senate Bill No. 19 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS. This bill makes technical changes to statutes to ensure that all institutions of higher education in the State

continue to adhere to the same minimum standards of academic quality. We sought guidance from the Attorney General's Office and have attached their language.

The application of academic standards to all institutions of higher education is long-standing practice in Connecticut, and is a key reason for our state's reputation for high academic quality regardless where a student enrolls. The technical changes contained in this bill provide greater clarity in state statute to specify that all higher education entities in Connecticut -- the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Office of Higher Education -- adhere to a single set of academic standards to promote academic success for all students. Although the standards are the same across the state, each system retains the ability to employ procedures to enact them based on their individual policies and organizational structure. In essence, Senate Bill No. 19 simply codifies decade's old existing practices.

The Office of Higher Education has recently completed revising the regulations containing the academic standards, and these revisions are currently being reviewed by the Office of Policy Management. Once this review is complete, the Office will post a Notice of Public Intent on the Secretary of State's website for 30 days to allow for public comment. They will then be submitted for review to the Office of the Attorney General for 30 days to ensure that they are constitutionally and legally sound. During this period, the Office will gather and respond to all public comments. The proposed regulations, the comments, and the Office's responses to those comments will then be assembled as a Statement of Purpose, which will be sent within five months of the posting of the Notice of Intent to the Regulations Review Committee. A brief Certifying Statement, the current regulations, and the notice of approval from the Office of the Attorney General will be included. The Regulation Review Committee will then have the proposed regulations before them ready for final action.