

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

**SA 14-10**

SB37

House	6207-6251	45
<u>Senate</u>	<u>498-499</u>	<u>2</u>
		<b>47</b>

**H – 1198**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2014**

**VOL.57  
PART 18  
5882 – 6232**

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

212  
May 6, 2014

all been elected. We've invited -- or will invite -- we've invited all those who have announced their retirement if they would be interested in bringing out a bill from the dais. And the next two bills that we will be doing will be following in that tradition.

So, in that light, I would ask first that Representative Pam Sawyer please join us on the dais.

So the Chamber will stand at ease for just a moment as I prepare Representative Sawyer as to what to do. Just one second.

(Chamber at ease.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Will the Chamber please come back to order.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 311.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, on page 10, Calendar Number 311, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development, Senator Bill Number 37, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ASSESSORS IN THE TOWN OF SPRAGUE.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

And Representative Sear.

REP. SEAR (47th):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

The distinguished gentleman who is the Chairman of the committee.

REP. SEAR (47th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir. I apologize, acting chair of the committee, as you bring out the bill.

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

Representative Sear, you have the floor.

REP. SEAR (47th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

What we have for consideration before us is a repeal of Section 2, of Number 122, of the Special Acts of 1949. That special act set forth a method by which the Board of Assessors would be elected in the town of Sprague. And back at that time, circa 1949, the assessor function in many of Connecticut's towns was not performed by a single assessor but by a board of assessors.

And as time went on and the decades passed and

that job became more complex and the work load more demanding, many towns switched over from a board of assessors to a single-trained professional assessor.

In the Town of Sprague, that occurred in 1988. So they hired a professional assessor that took over those duties; however, the Board of Assessors was still in place, and it was still elected. And, as the years went by up to the current time, it was merely a formality. They didn't serve. And they chose, in the last election cycle, actually, to be disbanded.

So Sections 2-14 of the state statute requires towns to take special steps when they request that the General Assembly enact special legislation relative to a town's powers, organization, or form of government. And that requires a vote by the legislative body of a town for such an action.

In Sprague, the steps that were taken were the Board of Assessment voted to be disbanded; they sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen; the Board of Selectmen considered that action and voted in the affirmative and scheduled the town meeting for action to be taken. The town meeting was held, and they voted to request the action that's here before us today.

The Town of Sprague properly wrote a letter to  
( the Secretary of the State requesting such an

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

215  
May 6, 2014

action. And that's what we have before us. It's a great piece of housekeeping-type of legislation.

And I urge its adoption.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, Representative.

And will you remark further?

The good Representative from the 14th District, Representative Aman, you have the floor, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker. You look fantastic up there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Good evening, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Looking at the bill, since there's all of nine words in the entire bill, it's really hard to challenge the proponent with a whole series of questions, but I'll do my best.

You outlined the history since 1949 and the policies they have taken to remove the system that they had of elected assessors with one assessor. My question, I guess, is if this Legislature takes no action, what happens?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Sear.

REP. SEAR (47th):

I believe for the board -- for the Town of Sprague to act correctly in this matter that they would continue in their election cycle, and it's set forth as that Special Act of 1949 that it's a staggered. It's a group of three board of assessors, and they're staggered the way they were set up. So, every two years, there's one of them elected, and they have six-year terms. So if no action was taken, I believe the proper response -- or activity by the Town of Sprague is to continue that election cycle. And when the appropriate position comes up to put that on the ballot and to have that specific person elected, per the Special Act of 1949, and continue as they have been for about the last 25 years, with the paid assessor performing the assessor functions, yet the board of assessors still being elected.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

I just -- another question regarding that. If they are currently having their board of three and a professional assessor doing the work, does the board have to actually approve all of the items that the assessor does, sign off on his assessment in October

and then again in January when he sets the amounts; in other words, while they may be not doing the work, do they still have to do and file the formal reports that are necessary to operate the Town?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Sear.

REP. SEAR (47th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A while back when towns started adopting -- or utilizing a single assessor, the state's statutes did put forth the framework, whereby that assessor would take the responsibility and the duties of compiling the grand list and signing the grand list, taking responsibility for the grand list. And so back, you know, previously, it was set forth in state statutes that that now is the role of the single assessor.

So, in answer to your question, there is no prescribed duty and there is no assumed duty that the Board of Assessors in the town of Sprague currently performs.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you.

REP. AMAN (14th):

I thank the proponent very much for his

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

218  
May 6, 2014

information. I do urge my colleagues to support it.

And, again, Madam Speaker, it's great to see you up there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Floren from the 149th.

REP. FLOREN (149th):

Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. What a joy to say that to you after all these years.

Pam and I have been friends for what? Twenty years. I inherited Pam from Dolly Powers. And it was the best legacy anyone could ever give me.

You've been a wonderful leader, a wonderful friend, and a great seat mate. And you care about all of us. You care about process and you really, really respect the honor and the duties and the loyalty and the tradition of this House. And I thank you for that. And I love you to pieces.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you for your kind words.

Representative D'Amelio from the 71st.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in strong support of this legislation that's before us.

Well, who cares about that. Pam Sawyer.

I tell you, Pam, it's been such a blessing to

have gotten to know you through these years in the Legislature here. You're truly the glue that holds our caucus together. You're our go-to person always.

You know, if -- anybody that knows you, knows that you are a gentle soul. You are a true person, an awesome legislator. And I know that everyone on this side of the aisle has you in high regards. We love you dearly and we thank you for everything that you've done, for putting out all the little fires, for helping us keep Larry Cafero calm when he needed to be. But we wish you all the best of luck and we love you. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir, also for the kind words.

Did you get that thing done this morning?

Also, we have from the 78th, the good gentleman, Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I have a question that's been on my mind for at least three and a half years during my term.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative, will this be on the -- on the bill?

REP. BETTS (78th):

Yes, it will. It will be very relevant to the bill, which I ask everybody to support. And, of course, you'll ignore me, but I would really urge for your support.

However, I think it's important for this Chamber to know why I had this fixation about wearing my name tag. And I wonder if the Speaker would be good enough to tell everybody why I am wearing this name tag on a daily basis, given that you were my mentor when I first came in.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Bolinsky, I would be honored to.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Bolinsky?

REP. BETTS (78th):

Once again, you got me.

On a serious note, and in case you didn't know, she's the one who told me that I needed to wear a name tag so...

I've listened to you and look how far I've come.

But on a serious note, I just want to say what a pleasure it's been working with you and what a great mentor you've been, not only to me but to everybody on this side. And I consider you to be an excellent role model. And I just want to wish you all the very best in your retirement. And I will

continue to wear my name tag. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, Representative Betts.

Representative Hennessey from the 127th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HENNESSEY (127th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank you for all the work that you've done for veterans throughout the years. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir. I appreciate the remark.

Does anyone want to speak on the bill?

Representative Godfrey from the 110th. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. GODFREY (110th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Whatever the bill is, I'm for.

Now, we've -- we've had quite a long journey together, haven't we, for well over 20 years. And it's just been so much fun for a variety of reasons, because you have such an incredible sense of humor. You're ready to see the good in just about any situation. And, having worked with you, training all these newbies, doing freshman orientation for 20 years, that's certainly a legacy that, I think, you and I now share. And just your

attention to detail, your willingness to do all of that internal kind of work that association, that networking, the pushing, the nudging, the persuading on an issue, some large, some small, has been just a delight, a treat working with you on all -- on all of those.

Your work with the Counsel of State Governments and the Eastern Regional Conference has been sterling, and I thank you for that. You continue to bring that sense of humor to meetings outside of this Chamber. Thank heaven, and just kind of keep us all on an kind of an even keel to make sure that we remain civil, that we remain friendly and that we know how to have a good time, as well as get some real work done for the people of Connecticut. And I'm going to miss you terribly. Thank you for all your work here in the General Assembly all these years. Godspeed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir, that is very deeply appreciated.

Representative Bacchiochi, from the 52nd, in Eastern Connecticut, not too far from Sprague.

REP. BACCHIOCHI (52nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And, of course, I'm rising in support of the bill in Sprague, but I also want to make a comment

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

223  
May 6, 2014

about you, Madam Speaker.

When I was first -- won the election in 2002, I found myself at a unique gathering in the town, I think, of Vernon with a wonderful state rep that I knew very little about, but I was hoping would lead me along this journey of being a legislator. And, within the hour, we both had on very strange costumes filled with balloons as constituents continued to pop the balloons. I didn't understand the tradition, but I figured if someone like you were willing to do this at a legislative event, it must be what is expected of new legislators.

So I followed in your footsteps that evening, Madam Speaker. And I've continued to admire the way that you lead with grace, sometimes with quietness, sometimes with more firmness, but you're somebody that always has a smile on your face, is always willing to find the good in your fellow legislators, and the good in the experiences here in Hartford. You will be greatly missed. And I have been honored to serve here with you. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, madam.

Representative Sayers from the 60th. For what reason do you rise, madam?

REP. SAYERS (60th):

Hello, Madam Speaker. I'm going to miss all

the fun we have. When they look at me and say "Representative Sawyer," and they look at you and say "Representative Sayers."

I know when I first came up here and I was a freshman, my aide reported to me that he had used the laptop for a committee meeting and that my laptop had been stolen. And I'm very upset and thinking where am going to come up with the money to replace this laptop?

And come to find out it had been returned to Representative Sawyer. So I'm going to miss all the fun that we've had over the years with our name being so close. And I'm going to miss you, and good luck to you in your retirement.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, madam. I appreciate the comment. And we will not bring up some of the amendments we've brought up to create the tongue twister of Sawyer and Sayers.

Representative Fleischmann, sir, from the 18th.  
REP. FLEISCHMANN (18th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in strong support of the bill before us. Like the municipal assessors of Sprague, we have spent a long time together, and hopefully, in endeavors that are a little bit more enjoyable than

assessors' challenges.

I have nothing but fond recollections of our work together on issues ranging from helping state libraries and local libraries, working on education issues; working to make sure that incoming freshmen understood the difference between a JF and a JFS and understood why we used those two letters so as to save ourselves hours on deadline days.

And, you know, the thing that strikes me is that you always have arrived and left this building with a smile on your face -- excuse me -- and with goodwill towards everyone and a preparedness to get things done together.

And you are one of those legislators who always helped remind me and others that we're all in this together, that our efforts here are to jointly get things done for the people. So it's just been a pleasure, in every way, to work with you on all these different projects. And I'll miss serving with you as a colleague and look forward to serving with you when you show up here as a citizen advocate to tell us to get our acts together and get things done.

Thank you so much for all you've done.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, Representative.

That was very meaningful, and we spent many,

many hours working on so many of those issues.

Representative Willis, the distinguished Chairwoman of the Higher Education Committee from the 64th.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of this. Those of us in the other corner of the state would like to help out the assessors in the eastern part of the state.

I'd like to speak to you, Madam Speaker, and recognize the work and the advocacy on behalf of higher education in the State of Connecticut.

I've had the pleasure of working with you on the Higher Education Committee for several years. And what I have seen is someone who is a strong advocate for our community colleges, for our state university, and the University of Connecticut, who you have done so much for and I know that they're going to miss you very much.

But you've really helped in crafting legislation over the years. Your advice and guidance has always been appreciated. But I think it's really important for your constituents to know, in the State of Connecticut, how much you've done for higher education, for our students in Connecticut.

For that, we should all be grateful. Thank

you, Madam.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, Representative, for those thoughtful words. And of course, you know, there are many things you are proud of over the course of your career and working with so many of you, it has been just a pleasure, and so many positive things have gotten done. So I'm very thankful for what you have said.

Oh, Representative Ryan from the 139th. For what reason do you rise, sir?

REP. RYAN (139th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I have a few comments I'd like to make about this bill. I can speak to this bill because --

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative, excuse me. Do you know where the town of Sprague is, sir?

REP. RYAN (139th):

Ma'am, it is north of Norwich. Anyways, so I knew exactly where it is and I know it needs all the help it can get. So I think this is a good bill, and it should pass.

Thank you, ma'am, for those -- for the opportunity to say those -- oh, on second thought, I do want to take this opportunity to say goodbye to you. We came in together 22 years ago, and a lot of

folks here have really assessed your personality and your way of working in this Chamber.

You've always worked in a bipartisan manner. I know you and I have worked on many of the issues dealing with small towns in Eastern Connecticut and throughout the state, with that, came agricultural issues. We became involved in Saul and the other chairman of the rural caucus, so we continue to look at that and one of the greatest industries in our state, which is agriculture.

You've done a lot of lot for your constituents on the local level. And on a personal level, you've been a friend and I've certainly appreciated that and you will be missed. Thank you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, Representative Ryan, and for doing that with a straight face.

Representative Piscopo from the 76th. Sir, do you have something to say on this bill?

REP. PISCOPO (76th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, it is quite a bill. I'm really in favor of it.

I just -- I just want to say something of -- just to express my gratitude. And I can speak for all the whips on this side of the aisle, thank you very much for taking care of the incoming classes

every year. You were a mentor to them all, and you kind of showed them the ropes, and you made our job a whole lot easier. We really appreciate it, so thank you for that, Madam Speaker.

And thank you for teaching me a lot. I've learned a lot from you. I watch you -- I watch you work. I watch your style. You, kind of, plant an idea or a seed with various people in the room, say -- I don't know, pick an issue, the Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' Fund is a big one with you, protecting that fund. And you, kind of, plant that -- you, kind of, work that, and you've protected it over the years. So I've learned a lot watching you.

I just have a great, great friendship with you since the first week. You've come here and it's blossomed into -- I just love you, Pam Sawyer. And it's great to be your friend, and we're going to miss you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Piscopo, it's been an honor, sir.

Representative Ziobron from the 34th. Madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Madam Speaker, thank you so much.

And I strong -- stand in strong support of this bill before us.

And I'm also one of those freshmen that is so grateful for your help and guidance, a little kick in the butt once in a while when it's needed. I can't begin to tell you, as somebody from this side of the aisle and a woman, how important your leadership has been, especially because I represent a district so close to yours, and I, of course, I've admired you for a long time.

I'm going to share two bits of advice that you gave to me, and I think everybody in this Chamber is going to benefit from that. One of the first things you told me here as I came into the LOB with those wide eyes taking everything in -- and I still do to this day -- you told me, "Always take the stairs."

And it was such good advice, especially when we're sitting in long meetings and other things, and often I start walking to the elevator and then I hear your voice, and I take the stairs. And it's been very good advice.

And the second was, "When you have a morning meeting, always bring food." And, you know, those are the small little things, those details, that start out somebody, like myself and others, on a path of success because we stop to think about those details, think about how we're going to get through the day. And I have so much to thank you for, and I look forward to continuing our friendship outside of

this Chamber.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, ma'am.

And you could certainly hold the applause.

Representative Widlitz.

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's nice to see you there.

And I also rise in support of the bill.

And I'd like to reminisce a little bit. About 20 years ago, when I was a freshman and you were one of the first women who really approached me and befriended me, and I remember you gave us all these name tags -- Representative Betts, I don't know if you -- yours is like this, but mine had a magnet so it didn't pierce the fabric of your clothing and you could -- we had all of these little pins and Pam -- Representative Sawyer was the one who introduced us to that and took care of us and all these little incidentals. And I think, at that time, we also had a group called the Owls. It was an organization of women legislators. And we really worked hand in hand across the aisle with women on all kinds of really important issues, and we accomplished a lot together. And I think it would be a good advice to reinstate that group for the future legislators.

But I would also like to commend you, your work on behalf of the children in the state of Connecticut. You are a strong advocate for good education, and you've spent a lot of your career really promoting good policy:

And, most recently, it was a pleasure to have you on the Finance Committee. But I always knew, when you asked a question, you really knew what you were talking about. And I respect that tremendously. So I always knew it was going to be a question of substance. And you're a hard worker and have certainly been a tremendous asset to this Legislature. So I thank you for your service.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

I thank the gentle lady who is the Chairman of that particular committee, and it has been a pleasure, ma'am.

Representative Davis from the 57th.

REP. DAVIS (57th):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I rise in support of the bill as well.

But, as many of you probably remember, 2010 was a big year for us on this side of the aisle. But, most importantly, for Representative Sawyer, I think it was because so many of us from eastern Connecticut had joined our caucus for the first time in a very long time. And I can tell by the big

smile on your face how much that meant to you and how much it meant to all of us to have with us there in eastern Connecticut and to be our mentor and to -- whether it was if we had a button falling off of our jacket or if we needed to know which liaison to call in which department, you were always there for us.

And, for me, personally, over these last two years, having the great pleasure of having your office directly across from mine, and whenever I had a question, I was able to just yell across the hall to you and get the advice that I needed and I -- that's something that I will sorely miss in the coming years, if I have the pleasure of coming back to this Chamber.

And, on behalf of all of us in the eastern Republican Caucus, I wish you the best of luck in the coming years, and thank you for everything you've done for us.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

And thank you, Representative Davis. It has been my pleasure.

The gentleman from the 144th, Representative Molgano.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

234  
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Good evening, sir.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

I will speak to the bill. After all, Sprague and Stamford have a lot in common. We both begin with the letter S. We're only separated by one town alphabetically. That's the town of Stafford. So we have a lot in common. So I urge my colleagues to please support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I want to reiterate the words of my colleague, Representative Bolinsky, otherwise known as Representative Betts. You have been a mentor. But a mentor does some things, but in my case, a mentor went beyond the call of duty.

You made sure that everything that I needed in this building came to be: Access to rooms, access to desks. You made sure that everywhere I had to be I was able to get to. And that's more than anyone could ask for. You've always been like a big sister to me, and I can't tell you how much that means.

Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker for being a very, very good friend. I'm going to miss you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Molgano, thank you for those very kind words. But it is our honor that you grace us here in this Chamber and in our committees.

Thank you, sir.

Representative Butler from the 72nd. For what reason do you rise, sir, to support this bill?

REP. BUTLER (72nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, I stand in strong support of this bill, S.B. 37.

Also, I'd like to stand in strong support of Madam Speaker, because some seven and a half years ago, as I came into these chambers for freshman orientation -- I still remember like it was yesterday -- what was shared to me on how to conduct oneself as a state representative. And I remember the words that you shared with us about maintaining the decorum, and how to, actually, respect the Chambers, respect each other.

And you really didn't have to share all that with us in terms of words. As I stood here for seven and a half years, you have been the testament, the standard, of how to conduct oneself. And I've watched how you have served over the years, and it has been very impressive. While I know that you've worked on a lot of legislation and, actually, have helped a lot of people, the gift that keeps on giving is what you shared with us on how to conduct ourselves.

And I just want to thank you so much because I learned so much from that, and I'm trying to live up

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

236  
May 6, 2014

to that standard that you shared with us way back, that seven and a half years ago. So thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, Representative Butler.

One of the blessings I've had is I've gotten to know you all just as you've got elected, so I had sort of a heads up. Very special, sir. Thank you very much.

Representative Morin from the 28th, for what reason do you rise, sir?

REP. MORIN (28th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Good evening.

REP. MORIN (28th):

I rise in strong support of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

And I have a little different comment to make about Madam Speaker. As some of you may know, I spent 17 years before I came to these Chambers working for the much beloved Department of Transportation, and I worked in the Office of Environmental Planning. And we did things like plan roads that went all throughout the state, some through eastern Connecticut. And my colleagues would say, "I have a meeting today with Pam Sawyer.

Better be on my game. She knows more about this project than many of us." And they said that with respect, because she was a passionate advocate for the people that she represented in that part of the state.

And it was -- those of you that know -- eastern Connecticut especially knows, very controversial, still not built, and we still read about it today.

But the underlying reason for me standing up is that Pam, Representative Sawyer -- we all knew her as Pam, we could call her that, and I think that's what was kind of nice. When she came into meet with regular state employees, she was Representative Sawyer, but she was Pam as well.

And my people that I worked with held her in high regards. And I hold her in high regards, and I wish you well, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir. I just have one question for you, would you like my 34 inches of reports from the Route 6 project that are gracing my attic?

REP. MORIN (28th):

(Inaudible.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

That was a very clear no, sir. Thank you very much.

Representative Carter from the Second. Sir,

**H – 1199**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2014**

**VOL.57  
PART 19  
6233 – 6539**

for what reason do you rise?

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

You may not remember, but when I came to the Legislature, even before I ran for office, you were the first legislator I met. And from then on, you've raised the bar. You know, I wouldn't have known what Masons was. I thought it was a bunch of jars. And now you taught me so much more, and I hope you do something with that lovely book there that's dog eared and tattered and give it to somebody over here, because you've left a mark on all of us, and you were a big deal so thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir.

Representative LeGeyt from the 17th District.

Sir, do you rise in support of this bill?

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Madam Speaker, I rise to say that I'm not sure how I'm going to vote on this bill. But, normally, when that -- when I'm puzzled like that, I go to my good friend, Pam Sawyer, and talk to her and she usually enlightens me and helps me work it through so that I'm not making the decision she would make, I'm making the decision I should make with her help.

And you, Madam Speaker, have done that for me countless times, not just on things like how to vote

on a bill, but also things like how to resolve a situation that's come up with constituents or with other members of the Chamber. And by the sounds of all the tributes that you're receiving tonight, -- irrespective of the aisle, I'm -- I'm not surprised because that's the way I know you as well. And you have been a big sister to me in the six years I've been here. And I -- as you leave this Chamber tomorrow, perhaps not to come back through the end of our term, you will be leaving a piece of yourself with so many of us, and for that I am so grateful, so grateful. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir. And thank you for the kind words. It's been my pleasure.

Representative Perone from the 137th. Xie-xie.

REP. PERONE (137th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure to see you there.

I stand in strong support of this bill. This is, in fact, a burning issue down in the city of Norwalk, and I'm glad I can come out and support it.

I think that this is a -- I'd just like to just align some of my comments -- the fact of the matter is you were the first person that I worked on on any issue with up here in the House. That, in fact, there were -- I had some questions about sound

barriers and whether or not that was something we could do for our -- our municipality. And then one day you said, "Well, how about rubberized asphalt?" And I said, "Sure." I didn't know they had such a thing. And they really, sort of, didn't, not really, in this country, but we did go to some -- some events to learn more about it. And, basically, you taught me how to work -- really work to understand an issue and do my research and -- and not just have a superficial understanding of something, but really, not only get to know the -- the technology behind it, but also the players involved. And I learned a lot. And I really, also, then, learned that you were basically seen as the -- the -- what's -- anything you needed to know about roads, you were the great resource, which I found ironic since you support so many ATV bills. You're trying to get off them so much. It was kind of ironic for me.

But I just, on a personal note, I -- I can't think of anybody with more integrity and more heart and more desire to help people, whoever they are. And I'm always going to remember that. I'm always going to thank you for that. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir.

We have certainly have had our time together,

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

241  
May 6, 2014

and it's certainly will be very, very special in the memory department. Thank you.

Representative Ackert from the 8th, the contiguous district to the 55th. Sir, for what reason do you rise?

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. You look good up there.

I rise in strong opposition to you leaving this Chamber, but in strong support of the legislation before us.

You're not just a colleague, you're a family member. You talk to us about our families. You ask about grandkids. You ask about our daughters and sons. And you do talk about legislation and process, but I think what I'll take is the loving and caring that you have for each and every one of us in this Legislature, not just doing our business, but through our daily lives. And we love you and you will be missed. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir. And I look forward to seeing you this evening. One of the great benefits of living in a contiguous district is sometimes you're able to carpool. Thank you, sir.

Representative Morris from the 140th. Sir, do you support -- do you rise to speak on this

legislation?

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Yes, I do, Madam Speaker.

And certainly to support this legislation, if it gives me the opportunity to celebrate you.

If I might say, I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served with you. I'd reiterate the words that even Representative Butler, I remember so well when we first came in together.

The words you shared. And I look at you tonight and you look -- I'm going to use a word that I don't think it's a real word. You look so statesladylike.

And I look at the beautiful smile that you have and I think of the years -- it's been 7 and a half years for me now. And every time I've seen you, you've been smiling. I've never had an unpleasant moment with you, nor have I ever observed you having an unpleasant moment with anyone.

So, for those reasons, certainly, I would say that Representative Butler's words were correct.

Lastly, I would like to say that I am so thankful for the times when I was having back problems and I was hurting and you were one of the people that would very often would see me as I'm coming in and you would give me the little rub or the pat on the back or you would just ask me how I

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

243  
May 6, 2014

was doing. But that's how you've always been.

You've been concerned about all the members in this House, so I am certainly going to miss you.

God bless you and farewell.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir, so very kind.

Representative O'Neill from the 69th District,  
sir.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. If I may, a question for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Sear, prepare yourself.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

What would happen if we'd never passed this bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Sear.

REP. SEAR (47th):

If this bill was not passed, things would go on in the Town of Sprague as they have for the last 20 years or so.

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Because at the rate we're going --

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Through the -- through the speaker, sir.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

244  
May 6, 2014

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative O'Neill?

REP. O'NEILL (69th):

At the rate we're going, we may -- we may have to have Sprague continue on for another 20 years at the same way they've been.

I want to thank you for the -- all the counsel and advice and good fellowship for the last 22 years that you've served in the Chamber.

Many people may not know that we share an office. It's around the corner for the deputy leaders at large. And while we're never in that office, still, we enjoy the time that we've had together up here, and especially, there have been a couple of occasions when -- and these are recollections that I have -- that we've had conversations in which you've helped clarify my thinking about certain kinds of things, and that's been really, really helpful to me.

So I appreciate it, and I'm going to miss you a great deal, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative, as the dean of the caucus, I'm very grateful for the words. Thank you.

Representative Dr. Srinivasan from the 31st

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

245  
May 6, 2014

District.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Madam Speaker, it's wonderful to see you there.

I rise this evening, Madam Speaker, to take this opportunity to publicly thank you for all that you have done for the State of Connecticut, your constituents, this wonderful Assembly, our caucus, and of course, all the help, all the guidance you have given me on a personal basis.

I still recall when I first ran for office four years ago -- I'm not sure if you remember that -- four years ago when I ran for the first time, I called you and I said, "Can I just get together with you for a breakfast, lunch, or whatever, to just go over what this all means."

You were kind enough to accept that invitation, and you also suggested that "Why don't you bring your wife along because this is not about you serving in the Assembly, she has to know, too, what happens when you're here in the Assembly," already giving me the confidence and I ran for the first time that I've already won, and I'm already here.

And in that conversation that we had, at Bolton, for a cup of coffee and breakfast, you were giving me in details what all I needed to do, what to expect here if I am fortunate enough to be elected. And as we're having this conversation for

about an hour, an hour and a half, you excused yourself for one second and said, "I do need to make a phone call." And, of course, you go just to the next table of the coffee shop where we were, made a call to the hospital just to make sure that your husband had arrived at the hospital in time for the minor procedure he was going to be having that day.

My jaw fell. "Don't you need to be there?"

She said, "No. He can take care of himself, I need -- but I need to take care of you."

And that is why I did not change this meeting of ours. My wife and I will never forget that.

In the four years that I have been here, fortunate, blessed to have you as my mentor. I come up to you whether it be related to legislative work, whether it be related to something in my constituents, or even anything on a personal basis, should I do this or should I do that. And as my previous speakers have said, you always have taken the time of day to be a guide, to be a mentor.

And my hope will be that I will one day be something like you have been. That is my goal, to aspire to be somebody as giving and always ready to be there for the person as you have been to all of us. Thank you, Pam Sawyer. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Doctor, thank you for your very kind words. And my husband of almost 40 years was very comfortable with our meeting that day, and he is doing wonderfully, so thank you very much.

Representative from 134th, Representative Hwang. For what reason do you rise, sir?

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, to thank you, to thank you more than anything else. It truly is a bittersweet moment to have to make this address. It is bitter because we will lose one of the great stateswomen in our state, not only in regards of legislation, but you are truly a person that is passionate about representing your community. Never get in front of you if you were fighting for a cause. I've learned that. But at the same time, what you've also taught me -- and I hope all the rest of us -- is the fact that this is a unique Chamber and that we are all friends. And as much as we may represent one party or another, we have to work together.

And you have demonstrated that beyond, beyond reproach. And you have earned, not only in this year, but for the past 22 years, that anybody who have come across and worked with you, recognize your passion, recognize your commitment, but they recognize more than anything else, they want to be

yöur friend.

And, as I say all that, and I wish you the best of luck, there is joy and sweetness in addressing you because what you have left and what you look forward to is not only the love and affection of this Chamber but also a beautiful family. Having been able to see you with those multiple pictures of your family and of your grandchildren, those are the legacies that you will always continue to flourish and have. And that is a joy that I wish to you, as you move forward, enjoy the rest of your life and being able to share the incredible good that you've done in this Chamber but continuing on into the future.

So I'm privileged to have known you. I'm privileged to be able to acknowledge the fact that you have made a huge difference in my life, and in all the people that you've come across. And just those little subtle whispers, I will miss most important of all because they make me a better person. So thank you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Representative Hwang, xie-xie. Thank you, sir.

Representative Nicastro from the 79th, sir.

REP. NICASTRO (79th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

249  
May 6, 2014

Good evening, sir.

REP. NICASTRO (79th):

Madam Speaker, I'll be brief. I just want to say this, in the short time I've been here, it's been a pleasure and an honor to know you. I say that sincerely.

When you talk, you talk with passion but you never lose your cool. And that grabs people's attention. They listen to you and what you say sinks in. Sometimes, you know, we get tired of listening to people -- we all do -- but I think the best thing I remember most about you is when we bumped our carts. I was down in New London. I was at the submarine base, and I was shopping in the exchange on the second floor. I came around the corner, bang, you and I smashed into each other. If you recall that, that was several years ago.

And I said, "Wow, what are you doing here?"

And you explained to me how your husband was a veteran and stuff like that and, you know, that politeness was there, even -- it's always there. And I think if everybody took you as an example, and kept that in mind when they spoke, things would be a lot nicer around everywhere. I say that sincerely.

You will be missed by both sides of this aisle. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your service to your state and country.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

250  
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you, sir, and thank you for your service to our country.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Good evening, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Good evening, sir.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

That kind of sounds nice, at least for a bill or two, right?

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Thank you.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

I wanted to get up and say congratulations to you on your career, congratulations to you on your many accomplishments in here, but I also wanted to go back a little bit. There's two times in my life that I've entered into a new phase and immediately said, "Oh, my gosh, what did I do?" One was when I arrived at basic training, and they were pushing me around, shoving me through lines, buzzed off all my hair -- I know it's hard to imagine I once had hair. And I immediately called home and told my mom, "Call the Red Cross, do whatever, get me out of here. I don't know what I've gotten myself into." But it also happened in the very building next door in the

LOB.

We entered in for our freshman orientation, and it was you and Representative Godfrey. And you immediately started to talk about our schedule and how much time. And I said, "Wait a minute, when I was running they said it was part time." Yeah.

I quickly realized that and it was, you know, don't worry about it. We're only in session a few months out of the year. Yeah, but you and Bob quickly got rid of all those rumors that I was told and told me what it was really like. And then as I sat and listened to you, you really were instructing us how to be successful legislators.

We had the lunch break and we were downstairs. I was talking to one of my colleagues, and I said, "She seems great. But I don't get it. She's a Republican, why does she want us to be good legislators? And why is she telling us constituent contact and making sure we're staying in touch with the folks back in the district?"

And it really was that, you wanted us to be good legislators. You didn't care about politics of the party, you cared the -- we, in this Chamber, would do the work of the State of Connecticut. And I think that's what makes you special, and it's always been true since I worked with you in this Chamber.

I'm sure it's going to continue to be true in the future. I don't think you'll ever get totally away from this building. You'll always come back and fight for the issues you believe in, as you have for so many years.

It's been a privilege to know you, and I know we'll look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you so much for all that you've done.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Mr. Majority Leader, I deeply appreciate those sentiments, and I presume that you were standing in support of the bill.

Representative Cafero from the 142nd, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I could not care less about the bill before us, with all due respect to the Town of Sprague. But I do care very much about you.

As you know, 22 years ago, you and I entered this new world together. And over those years I have called you "Sis." I did not have the privilege of having a sister. And this has been my home away from home, and this has been my family for 22 years. And in that family, you have been my sister.

We grew up together, our kids grew up together. We've shared tears and laughter. We've watched

family members thrive and grow and graduate and sometimes get ill. You and I have commiserated over and shared some of the difficulties in being the son and daughter of folks that are getting a little older. You have had the joy of being a grandparent. But most especially, we have this joy of having come into this caucus together and seeing all the changes, not only in this caucus, but of course in this building.

I remember, back in 1993, when we were freshmen, our caucus room for 65 of us at the time was this very, very small room. In fact, I think my current office was that caucus room, and all 64 of us were jammed in. And we used to go, as Bob Godfrey and others who have been here a while -- you think we go late now -- we used to go four in the morning, almost every night.

And there was one particular night where myself and Chris DePino and Mike Fedele were sprawled out on the chairs that were in the room, and Pam walked in bright -- bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, "Hi guys! How are you?" And she said, "Can you guys teach me Italian?" So Chris DePino said, "Yeah, sure. Sit down, Pam." And he taught her words that were not good words in Italian. But Pam said, "What does that mean?" as she repeated them, and Chris DePino said, "Ah, it means have a nice day."

We had so much fun together and I watched as everyone has said here, you cared about every single person in this Chamber, and especially, of course, in our caucus. You wanted us to be the best we could be. You were not only an amazing Legislator, your constituent service, your devotion to your District, but your devotion to us. If someone had a cough, there was a cough drop on their desk. If someone needed water, Pam was always the one that said, you know, why don't you drink this; make sure you eat right, et cetera, always the nurturing mother -- den mother of our caucus.

When I was fortunate enough to be elected leader, the first person that I would turn to for advice on personnel decisions, on caucus decisions, was Pam Sawyer. I relied on you so much. You've always been there for me. It is going to be so hard to say goodbye to you. I love you very much, Pam, and it's great to see you up there. God bless you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

I'm going to take this time to just say just a couple of words to all of you. I know that you have the State of Connecticut in your hearts. I know that you want to do the best for your constituents. I know that you have hit the campaign trail hard, and that each and every one of you have gotten here because of that work. But, I also want you to know,

rc/gdm/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

255  
May 6, 2014

as you look forward, to look forward to the next 10, 20, and 30 years from now as you make each and every one of those decisions. Those decisions certainly that are personal, taking care of yourself, but those decisions that you make that will affect about 3.5 million souls that come through these doors, or through the entrance to your towns, or cross our state lines. Don't just think of just the next year, the next budget, but think about the long-term of the health, the welfare, of our magnificent state.

So I'd like to just say one very special word to you as I leave this particular special spot in the State of Connecticut, standing up here because of the graciousness of our -- our Speaker, who has been a wonderful Speaker, if I may say so, sir. I would like to say God bless the State of Connecticut and God bless the United States of America.

But getting back to the business at hand, will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further on this bill?

You guys are awfully quiet now.

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House? Will members please take your seats, and the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Members to the Chamber, please. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Nobody's rushing in. Nobody's rushing in the door?

A VOICE:

No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

Will all members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast.

If all members have voted, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take the tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

On S.B. 37.

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those Voting Yea	143
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAWYER:

And the bill passes.

(Speaker Sharkey in the Chair.)

**S - 670**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2014**

**VOL. 57  
PART 2  
341 - 702**

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 8, Calendar 76, Senate Bill Number 113 AN ACT  
MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING  
HOUSING. Favorable Report of the Committee on  
Housing.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, that item might be passed temporarily  
and if the Clerk would go to Calendar Page 9, Calendar  
106, Senate Bill 37.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 106, Senate Bill Number 37 AN ACT  
CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ASSESSORS IN THE TOWN OF SPRAGUE,  
Favorable Report of the Committee on Planning and  
Development.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I move  
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report  
and passage of Bill Number 37 in concurrence.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on passage, acceptance and passage.  
Will you remark?

SENATOR OSTEN:

Correct. This bill is very simple. It just removes the, from the special act created in 1949, the board of assessors, as it is a defunct organization and because it was created by a special act, it removes it by a special act.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark? Seeing none.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Seeing no objections, I move that this bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 14, Calendar 165, Senate Bill Number 115 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNANCE OF SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS CREATED BY SPECIAL ACT. Favorable Report of the Committee on Planning and Development, and there are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN:

Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR: