

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

SA 14-18

HB5311

House	6103-6152, 6647-6654	58
Senate	3471, 3473, 3480-3481	4
Gov. Admin. & <u>Elections</u>	752-753	2
		<hr/>
		64

H – 1198

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
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5882 – 6232**

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

If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5402,
Total Number Voting 147
Necessary for Passage 74
Those Voting Yea 141
Those Voting Nay 6
Those Absent and Not Voting 4

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill passes.

Majority Speaker Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we immediately transmit House Bill 5402 to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 336.

THE CLERK:

On page 12, Calendar 336, favorable report of the (inaudible) Government Administration and Elections, Substitute House Bill 5311, AN ACT RAISING THE THRESHOLD FOR STATE CONSTRUCTION

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

109
May 6, 2014

CONTRACTS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND FOR COMPETITIVE
BIDDING.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

From the fourth city, Representative Lesser, of
the 100th, you have the floor.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

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

Please proceed.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an
amendment, LCO 5443. I ask that the Clerk please
call the amendment and I be granted leave of the
Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the Clerk please call LCO 5443, which
(inaudible) House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO 5443,

introduced by Representative Jutila, Lesser, Hwang
and Musto.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The Representative has asked to leave the
Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection to summarization?
Objection?

Seeing none, please proceed, Representative
Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is a strike-all
amendment that strikes the underlying bill and
creates a working group comprised of 13 stakeholders
to examine bid statutes. . And it's particularly
issues related to bid transparency and submit a
report the General Assembly by January 1, 2015. It
is the result of a series of discussions on
Legislation that proceeded throughout the session.

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Question before the Chamber is on adoption of
House "A."

Further on House "A?"

Representative Hwang, of the 144th -- 34th, you
have the floor, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

111
May 6, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, a couple of questions to the
proponent of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO: .

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

What is the title of this bill?

Through you.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, through you, to the good
Representative from Fairfield or Trumbull.

I believe the bill of the -- underlying bill --
statute is -- or bill is AN ACT RAISING THE
THRESHOLD FOR STATE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS REQUIRING
THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES AND FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

Since the amendment is a strike-all, I'm not
sure if that title would continue.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And does it refer back to Senate Bill 454, in regards to the transparency of general bids?

Why would this statute or working group be necessary?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, through you, to the Representative.

That's an excellent question. As the Representative recalls, Senate Bill 454 was reported on favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee and would have made a number of changes to the bid statutes.

After receiving feedback from the Department of Administrative Services, and from associated general contractors, we felt that it was in the interest of this body to create a working group to discuss issues and make sure that all stakeholders were consulted.

And so, yes, I think it is fair to say that this amendment is a direct response to the Bill 454, which is not before us today.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

113
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you.

And thank you for that answer.

One major component of those discussions was the sensitivity of subcontractors and -- and their role in regards to be recognized, but at the same time, and not being outbid.

Could the good Representative share a little bit of the prospective of why it is a potential issue that we should address?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I think the good Representative, the Vice Chairs -- the Vice Chair -- the Ranking Member's comments are very well taken. This bill reflects concerns from the subcontracting community, that lack of bid transparency may put them, and possibly taxpayers, in -- in jeopardy on -- on some contracts that are either the result of general bidding or construction manager, at-risk projects.

This reflects their concerns. But as I indicated earlier, we wanted to make sure that we

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

114
May 6, 2014

were hearing from all stakeholders, and hopefully, this task force includes them.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Does this bill's intent or the working group focus look to make the contracting manager responsible and do the additional reporting or is it a at-will process?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you.

If -- if the question is referring to the amendment before us, the scope of the study looks at a number of different tasks. I don't believe it prejudices the outcome of the -- the working group's report.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And thank you for that answer. It was very helpful.

As I go back to the underlying strike amendment, one of the things that came out in regards to the selection process of the working group, how was that formulated?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

As is the case in a number of working groups that we have before us, it is a hybrid of a gubernatorial appointees and appointees from the leaders of the four caucuses. I believe that was formulated as part of a consult -- consultative process involving all of the stakeholder. And I believe it was collaborative.

I can go through the list of appointees if the -- if the Ranking Member wishes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you.

I want to thank the good gentleman for his answers.

One particular one that -- that struck me was in line 15. Why would the president of the University of Connecticut have a designee? Could the good Representative give some background, an explanation for that selection?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes. Through you to Representative Hwang.

I believe the answer is that the University of Connecticut has its standalone authority to issue bids for capital projects which makes it unlike other state agencies.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I want to thank the good gentleman for his presentation. And I want to urge support for this bill. This is a working group that allows us to push forward, and allowed the small business and the general contractors in our community to be able to get a fair share bid of contracts, to ensure that there is transparency, and that the bidding process is accorded fairly, and that we support our small

businesses in the community.

So with that said, I urge support, and thank the good gentleman for his answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Ziobron, of Belltown, the 34th district, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I had not followed this bill at all, so I just -- seeing it here, I quickly read through it. And I have a couple of questions for the proponent.

Through you, please, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you.

I recall, in the last couple of years, the M.O.R.E. Commission had been working on a variety of things, one of which was a task force on prevailing wage, which I had an opportunity to serve on. And we met with stakeholders and discussed those issues. I'm not sure if the good Representative is aware of that working group.

So, through you, Mr. Speaker, has there been any discussion about looking at prevailing wage as a

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

118
May 6, 2014

topic of the subject for the working group?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not aware of any discussions. I will say that the scope of the working group, while specifically -- to limit it to five topics, is also -- includes the possibility of expanding it to other topics as well. But there are five specific tasks before it and that does not include any discussion of prevailing wage.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And if the good Representative wouldn't mind, could you please highlight what those five topics are.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you.

The first task is a review and analysis of the

current general contractor and construction manager risk practices for receiving subcontractor and lower-tier subcontract (inaudible) submissions on capital projects.

It also -- the second task is a review of existing laws regarding state enforcement compliance.

The third is a review of existing construction contracting methods.

The fourth is best practices for subcontractor and lower-tier subcontractor bid submissions on capital projects.

And the fifth is recommendations for administrative and legislative changes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And you mentioned, I think, lower-tiered contracting projects. And when I hear that phrase, I think of a possible linkage to prevailing wage because of the tiered. Is that possible?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

120
May 6, 2014

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't believe that was brought up in the public hearing on Senate Bill 454, which as I mentioned in my earlier colloquy with Representative Hwang, was the genesis of this strike-all amendment.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And in those public hearings, did anyone ever discuss something in Massachusetts called a "subbid law?"

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

I -- I don't -- through you, Mr. Speaker -- I don't recall that. I -- if the Representative wants, I can certainly check, but I don't -- I'm not aware of that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And the reason I bring that up is because, in our deliberations and discussions about prevailing

wage, we looked at trying to not recreate the wheel and figure out what other states were doing that was maybe more effective, maybe was more inclusive, especially with our municipalities when they go out to bid these jobs. And we came across, with the help of the construction and union folks who brought it to the table in our -- in our deliberations, we came across a -- in Massachusetts, which is a subbid law, which is a very interesting practice and one that's certainly, I think, is worthy of investigation.

So through you, to the good Representative, that -- is that helpful in explaining what that law is? And is it a possibility that this working group could further examine that?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And Mr. Speaker, through you, I think that's actually an excellent point and I would refer to the gentlelady the line 64 and 65, which specifically asks that the working group look at practices and laws used in other states, and so I think that that would be very well taken. And I thank the gentlelady for her suggestion.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

122
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the good Representative for pointing that out. As I had stated, this was a -- something I had not been really tracking, so I'm glad to see that it's in there.

We have an obligation, I think, to look at the big picture when it comes to these sorts of projects, not only for the benefit of the employees, but in the case of state or municipality projects, also for the benefit of our taxpayer. And I think that that can happen. We were very close to having a lot of great discussions through the M.O.R.E. Commission on this topic. And I look forward to seeing what the working group comes up with.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, madam.

Further on House "A"? Further on House "A"?

Representative Sawyer, of the 55th district, you have the floor, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies.

You know, after knowing what the original bill was, and looking at this particular working group,

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

123
May 6, 2014

Mr. Speaker, I think it makes a lot of sense to put all the players together in the same room and to work through what has been, I would say, indigestion that was -- happened over a number of years with all these players. So I really appreciate all the work that went into this.

And just a quick question, through you, to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you very much.

In looking at -- through you, to Representative Lesser -- in looking at who the different groups that are coming to be a part of this, I just had a couple of questions because I didn't know what the expression in line 32 was. A representative who is a construction manager, that I know, but when it says a manager at risk, if he could please describe what that is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, through you, to the good Representative.

The construction manager at risk is a type of person -- it's a type of -- way of bidding for a

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

124
May 6, 2014

state capital project, which is distinct from a general contractor form of bid. There are two main bid -- bid -- ways of bidding for a state project, and so that captures that distinction.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, sir, and through you.

In Section 9 and Section 11, there are two mentions of managers at risk. Is there a reason why there are two in this particular makeup of the committee?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I am actually not seeing Sections 9 or 11 in -- in the amendment before me. Is -- could the Representative please point me to the lines she's referring to.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Oh, absolutely, Mr. Speaker, through you.

It would be on line 27 and also on line 32.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

125
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, I appreciate, through you, Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady's clarification. I think the distinction is that one is for an organization representing them and the other is one who has to be appointed directly. And I think the importances of having an organization representing the overall community, if you will, of general contractors and construction managers at risk.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Then I would ask the same type of question in regard to lines 19 and lines 24. In line 19, for those people who are watching, it says a representative of the Connecticut State Building Trades, and in line 24 it says a representative from the trades organization. If he could please describe the difference between those two because they sound very similar.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I would say that many of the reasons are probably similar to the reasons outlined in my previous answer regarding construction managers at risk and -- as well, a general contractors. And specifically, it's my understanding that not all trades organizations are represented by the Connecticut State Building Trades.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If you -- I appreciate that answer also. And if you -- through you, Mr. Speaker -- in line 16 it talks about a representative of a minority-owned business who is familiar with state construction contracting. Was there any discussion of including a woman's-owned business?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not aware of any testimony before the GAE Committee in the underlying bill, which as I mentioned previously, is Senate Bill 454 to that

effect. But we were responding specifically to testimony we received from minority businesses and from the Black, Puerto Rican caucus expressing concerns that the practice of bid shopping might be disadvantaging minority-owned businesses. And so, in the interest of including all stakeholders, we included that as a designee on the committee -- or on the working group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate his answer. And I guess I wished that perhaps we had had others that had stepped forward to talk about women's -- a woman-owned businesses. It is my hope that perhaps one of these others that will -- going to be appointed will be someone that represents a woman-owned business as well so that they could be included. Because I have heard from those -- a number of those groups that sometimes they don't quite get the -- or have they impact that they think they should have or perhaps the respect that they deserve. So I appreciate that.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, does the good Representative believe that this committee will

convene within the 60 days, as mentioned in this particular bill, and that it will be able to complete its work by January 1 in 2015?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know the answer to that. I certainly hope that the working group convenes as we're asking them to do so, and it's my understanding that the Department of Administrative Services intends to do so.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Sawyer.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I appreciate that answer, because if you don't have buy-in from the -- from the particular department it's certainly something that's not going to flow smoothly, so it's a good thing to hear. And I would like to thank the gentleman for all of his work on this particular piece. I'm not usually fond of long, drawn-out working groups, and so I think a much shorter process will work better in this case. They can get to it, get to the point.

Of course, these are very busy businesspeople

who will be taking times out of their lives and their careers and away from their businesses, except for a few state employees, so I look forward to reading about their response in January.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the good gentleman for this answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Sawyer.

Representative Aman, of the 14th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have some questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. Looking at the bill itself, it raises, I think, an issue that has to be discussed, has to be looked at on this, the bidding process.

The state of Connecticut is one of the largest construction managers and construction -- use of the construction industry in the state, and so I think this is very important. And in lines 5 and 6, they talk about the State shall study, et cetera.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- the questions I would have is, when you

use the word the -- "study the state construction contracting," when you talk about "state" are you talking about just the state of Connecticut or are you also including the municipalities?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Just the state of Connecticut.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

And on that same token, the colleges and the University of Connecticut, are they considered part of the study under the word "state"?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

They are.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

And the Department of Transportation with their roads, bridges, et cetera, that they do Harbor

Front, the variety of other projects, are all of those falling under this study?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser:

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't believe that they are.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

In that regard, since again, the construction and contracting of our bridges and roads are probably some of our most expensive things we do, I'm curious as to why the committee had decided not to include them in the study.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I agree with the Representative, that they are major capital projects, however, I don't believe they fall within the cognizance of the Government Administration's and Elections Committee.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

132
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. On that, I wish they had probably gone with the Transportation Committee and talked to them about adding them in. I think it would have been better.

In the contracting, is the public/private partnerships which are being used more and more, are they considered part of this study or is that a separate category?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

They are not specifically limited or delineated within the scope of the study, however, I would point the Representative to language in the bill that does not limit the scope but simply provides five areas that they must consider.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. They talk about the contracting and subcontracting process. Professional service

agreements are very often classified very differently. Are professional service agreements included in these studies or is that, again, a separate entity?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I would point the good gentleman to, at least, to line 35 which references that an association representing design professionals be represented in the group. But there is no specific discussion of professional service agreements within the scope of the study, again, with the caveat that there is no limiter on the scope.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

So the -- I can understand that it's spelled out for the architects, probably the engineers. How about the legal community, who, again, is a major driver of the costs regarding a construction project, are they being looked at within the study?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Thank you. And I -- with apologies to the good Representative. I believe he asked about the legal community, but there is some noise.

If the answer was about the legal community, the answer is that the committee is -- or the working group is required to be -- make itself available to the general public, which is a broad category that I believe would include any stakeholders not specifically included within the 13 designated members of the working group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. Going away from that for -- those items for a moment, I'm going to talk about set-asides and things for giving local contractors, state contractors, an advantage in competitive bidding.

There's a variety of ways that have been suggested over the years for this to be accomplished, the idea being, with an advantage, we would have more contacts going to state of Connecticut companies. There's also problems in some of the other states objecting to this when our contractors go down there. So is this part of the

study?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

No, that's not specifically mentioned in the scope of the study, although I would argue that I think some of the concerns we heard from subcontractors were related to bid practices that do favor out-of-state firms, but that is not a direct focus of the study in the way the Representative suggests.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. A prior Representative talked about bringing women in as far as one of the groups. On that, the -- the state currently has a variety of set-aside programs for various minority groups, women being one of them. They also have a variety of other programs that are designed to encourage minority contractors to take over state work.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, is this committee going to look at those set-asides or whatever other term is currently being used for that to determine

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

136
May 6, 2014

the effectiveness of that as far as cost and also
the effectiveness of getting those particular groups
into the construction industry?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

No, that is not specifically mentioned as one
of the areas under consideration by the working
group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY-SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yeah, again, like some of the other things, I
think that if you're going to look at the entire
contracting, subcontracting process, those are major
cost drivers and major policy decisions, some of
which I don't think have been reviewed since they
were put in place, and I was hoping that this group
would also have a chance to look at it.

Prevailing wage was discussed earlier, so I'm
not going to mention that at all. But one of the
other problems that has arisen, especially that the
Labor Department has been very active in, the unions
have been active in, and even the homebuilding

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

137
May 6, 2014

industry has been active trying to work out the problems of workmen's comp insurance, who's covered, how premiums are charged, et cetera.

Again, through you, Mr. Speaker, when you're looking at the working for the state, is workmen's comp insurance going to be looked at?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I would refer the good Representative to lines 59 through 61 of the bill which require that the scope of the study examine laws regarding state enforcement and compliance of general contractors, construction managers at risk and subcontractors.

So insofar as any issues related to workers' comp or as he reference in previous questions, minority set-asides are contained within that class of compliance, then, yes, they would be under the scope. But I don't think more broadly the issue is listed as within the scope of the working group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. The -- one of the major things on the

workmen's comp that has been a problem on the state jobs and probably one of the most difficult things that the Labor Department has handled as to who gets covered and who is exempt from workmen's comp. It's a very, very high cost for a company to have. They're put at a tremendous disadvantage if they're paying the premiums and another unit is defining people as independent contractors and they are not covering it. It's something, again, that has been looked at, but I was, again, hoping this group would come up with some recommendations that we could put into law next year.

Line 62 talks about existing construction contracting methods. Is that the industry standard or the state policy, or is it just in general that they can look at any of the construction contracting models throughout the country?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that is a reference to contracting methods by general contractors and construction managers at risk that are or could conceivably be bidding on state capital projects as covered by the scope of this working group.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

139
May 6, 2014

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. In line 63 they talk about best practices, and we always talk about looking at the best practices of other states. I really wish we would also start looking at the worst practices, because unfortunately, it seems that we do have tendency sometimes to adopt them. And it is a -- something that I don't think we do often enough is to look not at what is working but what is not working in other states and other areas when we do it.

In general, I -- I have no objections to the bill. I wish it did include the Department of Transportation and all of those projects, since as things are going on within the state, it is such a major part of our construction and costs, whether it be the bus way going up, whether it be talking about improving the rail corridors or rebuilding our bridges and highways. The cost that is involved in that is very high, and I think it also should be included in the studies.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Aman.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

140
May 6, 2014

Further on House "A"?

Representative Belsito, of the 53rd, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a few questions for Representative Lesser.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Through you.

Okay. First of all, was this bill aimed at attracting and helping small businesses get contracts from the state?

Through --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative --

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

-- you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't believe the amendment language is or is not. I think it is designed to reflect concerns raised by the subcontracting community and related stakeholders.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

141
May 6, 2014

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I would actually caveat that and say that if --
if the question is referring to Senate Bill 454,
then the answer would be yes.

Through you Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

So I'm to take that as, yes, we're trying to
attract small businesses?'

I'd -- I'd -- through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd
like that clarified.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe the -- the working group does not
have that as a specific goal of the working group.
So, no, I don't believe that is an expressly stated
goal of the working group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Okay. So then can we presume that we don't
want to attract small businesses?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

142
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Mr. Speaker, I personally want to attract small businesses. I don't believe that's covered by the working group at issue in Amendment "A".

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Okay. So the working group is strictly for large contractors?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

No, I believe the subcontracting community is represented on the task force that we're looking at, and specifically, we're looking at both subcontracting practices and lower tiered subcontracting practices.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And Representative Belsito.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Mr. Speaker, that sounds as if it is for small

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

143
May 6, 2014

businesses.

Through you.

Is that -- that is --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

(Inaudible.)

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

-- the question. Is this for small business?

Once again, it sounds as if it is, and yet, in other words, he sounding as if it is not. I'd like a clear, concise answer, yes or no.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser, would you care to respond?

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

The working group is examining subcontractor bid processes related to subcontractors and lower-tiered subcontractors. It does not have a goal, per se, that's listed within it. It has five tasks that it is supposed to do which are explicitly enumerated within the scope of the amendment. I did mention them earlier. I would be happy to do so again.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Belsito.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

144
May 6, 2014

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Okay. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another question.

One, if it is for small businesses, which he is presumably saying it is, why are there no small businesses including in the 13 companies, corporations, individuals, that are assigned to this committee?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe the intent of the of the bill is to include representation from subcontractors and lower-tiered subcontractors or at least raise issues relevant to those. It also specifically mentions a minority business enterprises.

To those -- to the extent that those businesses are also small businesses, then they would be represented, but the bill does not mention small businesses anywhere within it, nor does the amendment, so I'm not sure how to answer that beyond that.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Belsito.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

145
May 6, 2014

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Mr. Speaker, through you.

If there are no small businesses mentioned, we have a minority business and we have the president of the University of Connecticut. I don't think she's picking up a shovel. We have -- and she's going to appoint somebody. We have all higher-up people that are on this committee. How about some workers, some working businesses, who know what's going on to be on this committee?

I mean, if you read the list of organizations, there -- there really isn't anybody who's -- who's basically working here. These are all people who are in charge of organizations, but they're not down with the small businessperson that we need to get started and working.

So I would like to ask, can this be amended so that we can have two or three absolutely small businesses that can work for the state of Connecticut who will not be represented on this list, and who can never get a chance to -- to do anything?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Belsito, we have House "A" on the board. If you'd like to offer an amendment after we dispose of House "A," you're more than

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

146
May 6, 2014

welcome, sir.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

So it would be up to me to write a new amendment for this -- for this bill. Is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

We generally do not amend an amendment that's on the board, yes, sir.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Okay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Okay. Okay. Thank -- thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO: .

Thank you, sir.

Representative Ackert of the 8th District. You have the floor, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

I heard you well this time, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Through you, a couple questions to the proponent of the amendment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to thank the good Representative for his answers, but I have a couple remaining.

In sections that 40 -- lines 42 through 45 talks about the appointments and not being made 30 days from the effective date. Then it mentions on the end of line 43, any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority, so if by chance an individual wasn't able to be appointed by the 30 days, would this working group still be able to move forward?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I believe the answer is yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And -- and then if there was a vacancy that was still remaining, they could be filled after this -- this point, at which they were starting if somebody was able to come aboard that fit one of the 13 criterias to be added on?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I would urge all appointing authorities to make prompt appointments, but, yes, I believe that the -- if there is a vacancy, the working group could certainly continue to do business, whether that was at the beginning of the scope or at some point in the middle of the working group's working process.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the good gentleman for his answers, and that is what I was hoping and I think that's the intent of the legislation.

When you get a strike-all amendment that -- you know, I looked at the original bill and there's only one person that had testified in the original bill number, but then, as the strike-all, I went back and was able to look at 464 to get some additional information, but I couldn't quickly grasp the -- the issues that brought this legislation forward.

If the good gentleman could give an example or two of what his recollection of what was the biggest concern for the bidding, if you could?

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

149
May 6, 2014

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you -- through you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not sure if I can answer questions about Senate Bill 454, if that's not the amendment before us, but I will do my best. And my recollection is that that bill was reflecting concerns from subcontractors, particularly lower-tiered subcontractors, that nontransparent bidding practices were not resulting in the -- were not to the interest of the state of Connecticut for a variety of reasons, and those were laid out in the public hearing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

And again, I thank the good gentleman for his answers. And -- and I believe that this is a -- a good measure to move forward. I do echo some of the concerns brought on who's being appointed to it. I think the -- what we've -- what's happening is there are so many contractors in the state of Connecticut that aren't -- that don't have the opportunity, for many reasons, the structure of their business, the

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

150
May 6, 2014

size and be able to handle the administration component of it. And it would have been, you know, nice to see, you know, an under 50-person subcontractor or, you know, a, you know, a minority-based, female company -- so along the line, maybe expanding it to get as many stakeholders in play.

But I do look forward to the report that comes out of this committee, and I -- and I thank the good Chairman for his -- for his answers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Ackert, from the Insurance City.

Representative McCrory, you have the floor.

REP. MCCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Quick question, I was trying to get some clarification. In the original amendment you had CHRO as one of the 13 agencies that were a part -- on this, however, currently, you do not have them on there. Is there any reason why?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative McCrory, are you talking about in the original bill and the House "A" does not have CHRO, is that your --

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

151
May 6, 2014

REP. McCRORY (7th):

House -- House "A" does not have CHRO in the current.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative McCrory.

I do not have an answer as to why CHRO is not one of the specifically limited 13 designated authorities. But I would say that -- I would refer him to lines 8 and 9 of the bill which do require that the working group solicit input from the public, and I would consider CHRO to be a valuable member of the public and would certainly think that their expertise on these issues would be welcome by the working group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative McCrory.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So technically, as -- if I'm reading your -- your answer correctly, it is a good idea to have them on there. But in the language we have, that we're going to be voting on, it's not specifically spelled out that CHRO will be a part of the working

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

152
May 6, 2014

group.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

No, CHRO is not one of the 13 members of the working group.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative McCrory.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Considering that we're talking about doing projects, it was from 500,000 to a million dollars, and that's the particular pop -- population that many minority contractors can actually do that -- have that capacity, I would think that it would be important that we have an agency like a CHRO, or specifically, members from minority groups, specifically women or people of color on this working group. I find that to be very disappointing that we didn't specifically target that particular population.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

Is there anything that we can do as -- before we make this bill a law to change this and put specific organizations on that working group?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I would refer to Representative --
Representative McCrory to the 5th appointer --
appointee which is a representative of a
minority-owned business who is familiar with state
construction contracting. That is specifically in
the law.

If the Representative would like additional
representation, I think we could entertain that.
But at this point, I would -- I would emphasize that
I believe minority-owned businesses already required
to be on the 13 person working group, that we see
before us in the amendment.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative McCrory.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the good Representative for his answer,
but I'm still not clear. You're looking -- this
language says, "a member of a minority group,"
however, you also have women that I don't see
specifically addressed in this particular bill.

Sometimes when we talk about minority groups, when we talk about doing contracting, women are lumped in with minority groups, so therefore, as is -- as it reads to me right now, you're eliminating, specifically, women from the working group and/or minority population. And I find that to be very troubling.

So as we move forward -- and we can even discuss this -- I will ask again, is there anything we can do to fix this bill before we vote on it to specifically target either women -- women businesses and minority-owned -- ethnically, minority-owned business?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the Representative's comments and will certainly move forward -- we will -- we will consider that. And I -- I do, again, refer him to Section 5 which does specifically require that at least a minority-owned business be represented on the working group, although it does not, as he points out, mention a woman-owned business.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And Representative McCrory.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

A minority business in the State of Connecticut be -- can be ethnic minorities or women, so does the -- that doesn't give me satisfaction in the question that I'm asking.

So specifically, I'll ask again, is there anything we can do with this legislation before we vote forward, so we can address the issues of specifically minority-owned business, ethnic, minority-owned business?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Through -- through you, Mr. Speaker.

My reading on line 16 of minority-owned businesses would refer explicitly to a minority business enterprise would not include a business that is designated as a woman-owned business for set-aside purposes under the state law. I don't have a -- I, obviously, would hope that we could include concerns, but we were responding specifically to concerns about minority-business enterprises raised at the public hearing on Senate Bill 454. And that's why one of the 13 designees is

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

156
May 6, 2014

a minority-business enterprise.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO: .

Representative McCrory.

REP. McCRORY (7th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Verbally, I understand your -- your -- your suggestion on what line 5 looks at, but that still doesn't give me the comfort that I need. If I'm going to vote on a piece of legislation that specifically target opportunities for people to work and go after contracts in the state of Connecticut, specifically contracts at this low amount of dollars that we're referring to, contracts that I know that people in my community can go after, and if we don't -- if we're not intentional about addressing those concerns, then I'm not comfortable with addressing it -- voting on this piece of legislation.

So, through you, Mr. Speaker, once again, is there anything we can do with this piece of legislation, before we vote on it, that could address the concerns of the minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses in the state of Connecticut?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker.

gdm/cah/cd/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

157
May 6, 2014

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Aresimowicz, you have the floor,
sir.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker, I move we pass this bill
temporarily.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Without objection, so ordered.

For announcements, Representative Kupchick, of
the 132nd, you have the floor, madam.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

Hello. Oh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for a
point of recognition.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

On December of 2013, in the City of Bridgeport,
a home was on fire and a -- a two-family home. And
across the street a small business owner, Daybreak
Doughnuts, noticed that this was happening and ran
over across the street. A woman came rushing out of
the home with a child in her arms, and said another
child is in -- in the home. The house was engulfed
in flames and smoke was pouring out.

With me today, Mr. Speaker, is Tommy
DeLaurentis, who is the owner of Daybreak Doughnuts,
who lives in Fairfield, and owns the business in

H – 1200

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
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6540 – 6911**

mhr/md/ch/cd/gm
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

136
May 7, 2014

Those voting Yea	:	147
Those voting Nay		0
Those absent and not voting		4

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar Number 336.

THE CLERK:

On page 11, House Calendar 336, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections, Substitute House Bill 5311, AN ACT RAISING THE THRESHOLD FOR STATE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER: :

Thank you, sir.

Representative Lesser, we will try this again, sir.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Good day, Mr. Speaker.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Motion before the Chamber is acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Please proceed, sir.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 5443, previously designated House Amendment "A." I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The Clerk please call LCO Number 5443, previously scheduled House "A."

THE CLERK:

House "A," 5443, introduced by Representative Jutila, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Lesser.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the amendment be withdrawn.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Motion before the Chamber is withdrawal. The amendment is withdrawn.

Representative Lesser, please proceed, sir.

REP. LESSER (100th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk is in possession of Amendment LCO 5643. I ask that the Clerk please call the amendment and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, sir.

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 5643, now designated House "B," sir.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, House "B," LCO 5643, introduced by Representative Jutila, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection?

Seeing none, please proceed with your summarization, sir.

REP. LESSER (100th):

All right; thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, as everyone in the Chamber no doubt recalls from our discussion yesterday, this bill seeks to establish a Construction Contracting and Bidding Transparency Working Group. This amendment is

very similar to the amendment we saw yesterday, except that in response to some input from a variety of members on both sides, makes a number of changes to appointing authorities and members of the task force.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, it ensures that a woman-owned business is represented on it, and I want to thank my good friend and colleague Representative Pam Sawyer for that suggestion. It includes a change to ensure that a small business be represented on it, and I want to thank my friend and colleague Sam, Representative Sam Belsito for that suggestion. We also ensure representation from CHRO and ensure that the minority business enterprise that is on, it is appointed with, in consultation with the legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you.

For a motion, the motion before the Chamber is adoption of House "B."

Will you comment on House "B?"

Representative Hwang of the 134th, sir. On House "B?"

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you,
sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Afternoon, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you.

I rise in support of this bill but I -- I also want to reiterate the fact that as we have deliberated many bills through this whole, entire process, sometimes we always wonder why. And what this bill in its resultant form has done is the fact that we have made this bill better. We have incorporated different perspectives, different inputs to bring out a better product, so as we debate and engage in these kinds of discussions, I think we always have to remember there is always value in discussion.

But as I say that, I -- I also want to say thank you to Representative Sawyer for her counsel. I also want to thank Representative Belsito, from the 53rd, for his passionate advocacy of small business owners. I want to thank the Black and Latino Caucus for their representing the minority business interests in the community. And most important of all, I want to be able to close and say that this is a bill that will

allow our small business contractors to be able to compete fairly in a competitive bid situation as a subcontractor, to be able to survive and compete effectively in our competitive business environment.

So, with that, I urge its support but most importantly I -- I commend its process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Belsito of the 53rd; sir, you have the floor.

REP. BELSITO (53rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to say thank you to the other side of the aisle and to this side of the aisle, and -- and this is what works when we work together for the State of Connecticut and for the citizens of Connecticut. Working together produced a good bill and it produced a better bill. And I want to thank my colleagues for helping out on that and hopefully in the future we can do more of the same.

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Sawyer of the 55th; madam, you have the floor.

REP. SAWYER (55th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment now is extremely inclusive, and I'd like to say thank you to all who worked on it, including CHRO and its representatives, the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member.

Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, madam.

Will you remark further on House "B?" Will you remark further on House "B?"

If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor of House "B," signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Opposed?

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you comment further on the bill as amended?

Will you comment further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will members please take your

seats. The machine will be opened.

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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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

If all the members voted, if you can please check the board to see if your vote has been properly cast? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take the tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5311 as amended by House "B."

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	149
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill, as amended, passes.

Will the Clerk please call House Calendar Number
-- oh, I'm sorry, if you could hold one second,

**S - 679
CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VETO
SESSION**

**VOL. 57
PART 11
3246 – 3508**

pat/gbr
SENATE

286
May 7, 2014

Madam President, would move to place that item on the
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And the second item on Senate Agenda Number 1 is
Substitute House Bill Number 5311, move to place this
item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. And Madam President, on
Calendar, on Senate Agenda Number 4 previously
adopted, Madam President, would ask for suspension to
take up for the purposes of placing on the Consent
Calendar an item on Senate Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would
move from Senate Agenda Number 4, from Senate Agenda
Number 4, Substitute House Bill 5593, would move to
place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also another item on Senate Agenda Number 4, would
move for suspension to take it up for purposes of
marking it Go, and that is Substitute House Bill
Number 5417.

pat/gbr
SENATE

288
May 7, 2014

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. One additional item to place on the Consent Calendar at this time. It's Calendar Page 25, Calendar 562, Substitute for House Bill Number 5466. I move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Now, Madam President, if the Clerk would list the items on the Consent Calendar so we might proceed to a vote.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

We have items from previously adopted Senate Agendas, House Bill 5525, Senate Bill 152, House Bill 5528, House Bill 5311.

On Calendar Page 5, Calendar 327, House Bill 5099.

Also on Page 5, Calendar 330, House Bill 5441.

On Page 6, Calendar 341, House Bill 5117.

Calendar 338, House Bill 5323.

Calendar 344, House Bill 5442.

pat/gbr
SENATE

295
May 7, 2014

SENATOR LOONEY:

If we might pause for just a moment to verify a couple of additional items.

Madam President, to verify an additional item, I believe it was placed on the Consent Calendar and Calendar Page 30, on Calendar Page 30, Calendar 592, Substitute for House Bill 5476.

THE CHAIR:

It is, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

It is on? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, finally, Agenda Number 4, Madam President, Agenda Number 4 one additional item ask for suspension to place up on Agenda Number 4 and that is, ask for suspension to place on the Consent Calendar an item from Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and that item is Substitute House Bill Number 5566 from Senate Agenda Number 4.

Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, if we might call for a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

An immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

pat/gbr
SENATE

296
May 7, 2014

An immediate Roll Call on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 2.

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:

Thank you, Madam President. Two additional items to take up before the, our final vote on the implementer. If we might stand for just, for just a moment.

The first item to mark Go is, Calendar, to remove from the Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546. If that item might be marked Go.

And one additional item, Madam President, and that was from Calendar, or rather from Agenda Number 4, ask for suspension to take it up for purposes of marking it Go, that is House Bill, Substitute for House Bill 5417. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS
PART 2
493 – 783**

2014



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

March 3, 2014

*Benjamin Barnes
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management*

Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 5311

AN ACT RAISING THE THRESHOLD FOR STATE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE OFFICE OF
POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 5311, An Act Raising the Threshold for State Construction Contracts Requiring the Approval of the Department of Administrative Services and Requiring the Approval of the Office of Policy and Management.

This bill would increase the construction cost threshold from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for an executive branch agency to manage their own project with the approval of the Department of Administrative Services. The increase will more accurately reflect the current costs of construction as this threshold has not been modified since 1987. The bill also adds another layer of oversight for certain projects by requiring sign off from the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in addition to the Department of Administrative Services. In short, the bill will allow state agencies to manage more building projects on their own resulting in a more expedient and streamlined process for them and the State.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request that the Committee support this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.