

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

SA 14-1

HB5285

House	1110-1116	7
Senate	1815, 1885-1886	3
Public Health	72-73, 758-760	5
		15

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 8

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The bill passes. Will the Clerk call Calendar
67.

THE CLERK:

On Page 7, Calendar Number 67, Favorable Report
of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health,
House Bill Number 5285 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF
THE RENEWAL TIMES FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. I move the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of
the bill. Representative Johnson, you have the floor.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you. This bill requires the Commissioners
of the Department of Public Health and Consumer
Protection to review the renewal times for

occupational licenses for healthcare and pharmacy professionals.

It requires the Commissioners to report to the Public Health and General Law Committees on their recommendations for which renewal times can be extended without jeopardizing public health or the safety, while achieving cost savings for the professionals.

I move its adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will you remark. The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's, oh, excuse me. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon, Madam Speaker, good to see you there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Good to see you, doctor.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is time that we look at our renewal rates. As you know, ever so often, it is good for us to look back and see what is it that we are doing and where we need to be.

So I think this bill, which proposes to do that, look at renewal rates and come back with their recommendations for the entire healthcare industry, through the Department of Health and the Consumer Protection is definitely the right way for all of us to go.

Through you, Madam Speaker, just a few questions to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Johnson, please prepare yourself.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, the present renewal rates as they exist right now, is it on an annual basis for all of the healthcare professionals?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

To the best of my knowledge, it's on an annual basis for the professionals.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, in other states in the country, are you aware of what the current renewal rates are? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

In other states in this country, some of our fees are actually higher than other states. For example, one of the reports indicates that social workers in this state pay a higher rate than social workers in other states.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker, is it only rates or also renewal time, because it is my understanding in some states they do not have to renew on an annual basis and the renewal comes up on an every other year basis. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

I believe the good Representative is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

And through you, Madam Speaker, my final question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, will the study also look into if in case a recommendation is to extend the renewal time to two years for the healthcare professionals and the healthcare professional pays the two years licensing fee and then he or she retires or moves out of the state or the other, will this study also look into how those fees can be refunded for the year that was not used? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

I believe that the bill requires the study to include all aspects of how the fees are assessed, whether they're fair in comparison with other states

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and just try and make sure that we are not charging more than other states.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Chairwoman of the Public Health Committee for bringing out this bill. We appreciate that very much, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill because it re-looks at what our renewal rates are, what our renewal frequency is, and come up with a recommendation, which will be appropriate and relevant for this time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representative is voting by Roll.

Members to the Chamber please.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

Members to the Chamber immediately.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to see that your vote has been properly cast.

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

The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 5285.

Total number voting	140
Necessary for passage	71
Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The bill passes. Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 109.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 109, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on General Law, Substitute House Bill Number 5263 AN ACT MAKING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION STATUTES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

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SENATE**

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SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

While the Chamber is standing at ease, I have a couple of additional markings, a couple of additional items to place on our Consent Calendar, if we might.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Madam President, first of all, on Calendar page 16, bottom of Calendar page 16, Calendar 430, House Bill Number 5285. Would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And in addition, Madam President, an item that appeared on Senate Agenda Number One, previously adopted. Would ask for a suspension for the purposes of -- of taking up and moving to the Consent Calendar an item on Senate Agenda Number One.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Appearing on Senate Agenda Number One is substitute House Bill 5340, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LIABILITY OF A LANDOWNER WHO PERMITS MAPLE SUGARING ACTIVITIES ON THE LAND, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A". Would move that that item, in concurrence -- adopting the House amendment and accepting the item in concurrence with the House, be placed on the Consent Calendar.

On page five, Calendar 295, Senate Bill 445.

On page nine, Calendar 342, House Bill 5098.

And on page 10, Calendar 343, House Bill 5259.

On page 13, Calendar 404, Senate Bill 456.

Page 14, Calendar 408, Senate Bill 489.

On page 16, Calendar 430, House Bill 5285.

On page 18, Calendar 439, House Bill 5540.

On page 26, Calendar 497, House Bill 5081.

And on page 29, Calendar 511, House Bill 5146.

Page 30, Calendar 53, Senate Bill 203, and Calendar 95, Senate Bill 176.

On page 31, Calendar 116, Senate Bill 430.

Page 38, Calendar 280, Senate Bill 312.

And on page 41, Calendar 395, Senate 104.

THE CHAIR:

I guess that's all it. Okay.

Mr. Clerk, will you please open the machines and -- I'll open the machines. You call for a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call is ordered in the Senate on today's Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

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

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.
Total number voting 35
Those voting Yea 35
Those voting Nay 0
Absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before concluding today's session, would yield the floor to members who may wish to announce Committee meetings or for other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there points of personal privilege? Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, while I enjoyed being at the circle today, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish my wife a very happy birthday today.

THE CHAIR:

Oh my goodness.

SENATOR FASANO:

I missed the birthday dinner, but it -- I can't think of another group to spend it with other than my wife. So happy birthday to my wife.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATOR GERRATANA: Oh, okay. Sorry. Thank you.

BARBARA BUNK: That's okay. And I get called a lot of other things.

SENATOR GERRATANA: We all do.

BARBARA BUNK: In any case, Senator Gerrantano and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Barbara Bunk and I am president of the Connecticut Psychological Association.

I'm here in support of raised Bill 5285, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF RENEWAL TIMES OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES. . . .

CPA certainly supports such a study. First, I would note that in the majority of states, renewal times for psychology licenses are typically two years or more.

Mr. Karp also mentioned that social workers have a majority of -- a large majority of states have longer than one-year license renewal times.

Secondly, an expansion of renewal periods would reduce the administrative and financial burden of both the state and practitioners.

Thus, the expansion of the active licensure period will provide some relief for the state and providers, and would bring our licensing laws more in law with other states.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, ma'am. I was reading your testimony --

BARBARA BUNK: Yes.

SENATOR GERRATANA: -- also, and we appreciate very

much your coming today. Are there any questions?
If not, thank you so much.

BARBARA BUNK: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: The next bill is Senate Bill 224,
and it's Donna Kosiorowski who is testifying.

DONNA KOSIOROWSKI: Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Good afternoon.

DONNA KOSIOROWSKI: Representative Johnson and members
of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity
to address you on raised Bill 224, AN ACT
CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE
ADVISORY COUNCIL.

I have to thank all of you because you were one
of the primary reasons that we got the School
Nurse Advisory Council.

Thank you very much on behalf of all the
organizations I represent. I'm here on behalf of
the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut.
I'm also co-chair of the School Nurse Advisory
Council and I'm a member of AFK.

We agree that the language, in part, is -- is
what we would like to see you support. The
professional development language is certainly
not going to get any comment from me because it -
- it speaks for itself.

The issue that I would like to raise is the
language regarding the one to 750 nurse to
student ratio. The language of the Council said
at a level of not less than one qualified school
nurse in thinking about the healthcare needs of
the student.

I have to tell you the Council is a multi-

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From: Steve Karp <skarp@naswct.net>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 4:28 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: testimony on 5285
Attachments: Testimony on TF to review licensing renewal schedule.doc

Attached please find for distribution and public record testimony on HB 5285 that is being heard on 2-28-14.

Thank you.

Steve

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**NASW**

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Raymie H. Wayne, Ph.D., JD, MSW, President
Stephen A Karp, MSW, Executive Director
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Testimony on H.B. 5285: AAC A Study of the Renewal Times for Occupational Licenses

Submitted by: Stephen Karp, MSW, Executive Director

The National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter supports H.B. 5285 as a sensible first step in reducing the amount of DPH resources utilized in annual renewal of licenses for professions that can safely have multi-year license renewal. Such a step is in the right direction of reducing not only DPH staff time but also reducing the time and funds expended by licensees.

In the field of social work 37 states have two-year license renewals for social workers, 3 states have three-year renewal periods and 10 states (including CT) have annual renewal of the social work license. There is no indication that those 40 states with multi-year license renewal are any less protecting the public than the 10 states, including CT that has an annual renewal. We recommend that CT move to the mainstream of social work licensure by having a two-year renewal at no more than the current fee.

A review of the licensure renewal fees for the other 49 states shows that CT has the second highest social work license renewal fee, on an annualized basis, in the nation (Alaska being the highest). Of the 37 states with a two-year renewal the average cost for renewal is about \$120.00. In CT it costs licensed social workers \$190 per year to renew the license, significantly above the two-year average of most states.

In the 1990's there was a legislative task force that reviewed health care licensure fees. Senator Gerratana (than a House member) and I were amongst the task force members. That task force recommended greater consistency amongst the various professions fees and a reduction in fees for some of the highest paying professions. It is way past time that CT again looks at this issue and brings the renewal periods for most health care licenses into a more reasonable time frame and at a reasonable cost.



February 28, 2014

RE: Raised Bill No. 5285. AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE RENEWAL TIMES FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES.

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Traci Cipriano, and I am writing as Director of Professional Affairs for the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA). CPA *supports* R.B. No. 5285, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE RENEWAL TIMES FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES.

In the majority of states, renewal times for occupational licenses are on a multiyear cycle, typically spanning 2 years, but in some cases 3 or 4 years.

An expansion of the active licensure period would reduce the administrative and financial burdens of renewal for both the State of Connecticut, as well as practitioners, and bring our licensing law more in line with other states.

Many mental health practitioners find the current licensure fee to be quite burdensome, considering the relative income of mental health professionals. In addition, as you are well aware, costs continue to increase (one such increase will be for CEU's, if this committee decides to move forward on that issue), while reimbursement rates continue to decrease. Expansion of the active licensure period, without a corresponding increase in licensure fee, will provide some relief to practitioners who are feeling financially burdened by the current fee.

In addition, expansion of the active licensure period also gives practitioners more flexibility in terms of meeting CEU requirements, which allows for a more thoughtful approach to CEU course selection.

We appreciate your support of this bill. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Traci Cipriano, JD, PhD
Director of Professional Affairs

Barbara S. Bunk, PhD
President