

Act Number: 09-004 (Sept. Sp. Sess.)

Bill Number: 7003

Senate Pages: 6844-6855 **12**

House Pages: 11247-11250 **4**

Committee: None **0**

Page Total: **16**

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

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2009**

**JUNE
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Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The bill as amended by House "A" and that passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the Governor of Emergency Certified House Bill 7002.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to Emergency Certified Bill 7002, suspension of the rules. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would ask that the Clerk next call from Senate Agenda Number 1, Emergency Certified House Bill 7003.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill 7003, AN ACT CONCERNING

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THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND. The bill is accompanied by emergency certification, signed Donald E. Williams Jr., President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move passage of the emergency certified bill in concurrence with the House and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval of the bill, ma'am, would you like to further remark?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

This is our annual conveyance bill. It authorizes conveyances of state property from all the way from Bridgeport to Windham and towns in between for both recreational, municipal and economic

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purposes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, ma'am.

Will you remark further on House Bill 7003? Will you remark further?

If not -- Senator McKinney.

Thank you. It was the moving hand. I didn't see you there.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

I moved, Mr. President. Thank you. I apologize.

Mr.. President, this is a unique conveyance bill. We passed one during regular session. I appreciate all the hard work Senator Slossberg put into this. There are lots of very good things for a lot of towns. I voted for it during regular session and believe the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

My concern is that, when we voted on this package the first time, we did not then know that our budget would be expecting \$60 million from the sale of state assets. Now that 60 million is money that those of us on -- in our caucus, criticized as being unidentified and, perhaps, unobtainable and might lead to further deficits for the State of Connecticut.

But I think we made a choice in passing the budget that we were no longer going to simply give away state assets. I think we made a choice that now, because of our tough economic times, we were going to look to sell those assets rather than simply give them away.

Now, we've always done that through conveyance bills, and I've never objected to a conveyance bill, that I can remember, but I believe with that budget we changed our policies. And this, in other years, is a very good bill, but to give away all of these properties and then expect that we're going to get \$60 million through selling other properties, I think, is inconsistent and, therefore, for the first time that I can recall, will be voting in opposition to the conveyance bill.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I apologize for speaking after the Republican

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leader. I did have one question, if I may. And I'm not sure who direct this to. Maybe somebody from the City of Bridgeport will be able to answer this because all I had was the OLR analysis, and there's a provision in here that says that the DEP would give to Bridgeport two parcels of land. One of those is a 33-acre tract, which is located in the city of Trumbull, and that would be used to build a regional magnet high school. There's some conditions. It has to be built within ten years, or the property has to be maintained as a public park with the restriction recorded in the Trumbull land records.

And I didn't know how that would work whereas you took a boundary- state owned property in the boundaries of Trumbull and now made that a parcel to the City of Bridgeport. And if somebody could just explain that to me, I'd appreciate it.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I don't know that I can really explain the legalities of the transfer between the communities,

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but you do under -- you do have that correctly, that the purpose of this transfer is land that's going from DEP will then be used to create an interdistrict magnet school. And my understanding is that because the use will be shared between the communities that this conveyance would be allowed.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

And through you, Mr. President, if that were the case and the school is not built, but it's maintained as a public park, and it's, I guess, deeded temporarily to the City of Bridgeport, and a community was able to receive pilot money for that, who would be the recipient of the pilot money, Mr. President? Bridgeport or Trumbull or both?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I can't answer that question definitively, but rather only speculate that in order for it to become a

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project that would receive pilot reimbursement, that would have to be -- have to go through an additional process here at the state level. So the best that I can tell you is that I don't know in terms of what would happen with pilot dollars, but additional -- there would -- require additional language here at the Legislature in order for pilot funding to occur.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

And I don't mean to belabor the point, but is there a plan through the Department of Education, at this point, to build a regional magnet high school within the City of Bridgeport on this property?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

I do not know.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Mr. President -- and I thank the Senator for her

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answers.

We're moving to adopt a piece of legislation that proposes to remove some land currently located within the City of Trumbull and move those boundary lines over to the City of Bridgeport.

And I've -- I'm not -- I'm a short timer up here. I've only been up in the capital -- this is my seventh year, but I've never seen that in any of the conveyance bills before. It's always been from the State to an individual or the State to an individual community. Never before have I seen boundary lines of local communities transferred to a different community. And then they're being transferred to a purpose, which we don't even know if it's even gone through the stages of public hearings or approvals through the Department of Education to build such a magnet school. And I don't even know if that's in the statewide Department of Education plan. Maybe Senator Gaffey could speak to that when he returns to the chamber.

But I think that we're setting a bad precedent here just with that one provision. I really didn't see anything else in the bill on my cursory view, but that stood out, alarming to me. I looked in the House

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to see if there was any debate on that. And oftentimes, bills like this go through. They slide right through unanimously because they make a good sense -- but not in this case.

So with that, I will be opposing the bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on House Bill 7003? Will you remark further on House Bill 7003?

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Just, although Senator Witkos' questions were not addressed to me, I think I do have a couple of the answers.

Senator Witkos -- through you, Mr. President to Senator Witkos, I am not sure what the status of -- with the Department of Education is the State Department. I have talked to Mayor Finch in Bridgeport, formerly of this seat, and have discussed building the school with him. He intends that it will be one of the greenest schools in the state of Connecticut and is going to take much of the

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technology that we are trying to incorporate into our public buildings and trying to make it a model for that school and for the State of Connecticut. In addition it is anticipated that children from the surrounding areas, including Bridgeport and Trumbull will attend that school, as far as the interdistrict part of the magnet school goes.

And so for those reasons -- what I don't think is happening, though, which Senator Witkos seemed to allude to -- I'm not sure frankly -- is that there's any border change between the towns. It's also the case, as we remember in Stratford, that Bridgeport owns an airport that is not within its borders. The fact that Bridgeport may own the land does not mean that it is part of the city of Bridgeport. It is simply a title issue in my understanding.

So I'm not concerned with us moving the boundaries for this purpose. It should benefit my entire district. And certainly, the plans have been in place. I've seen plans for the school. Whether those have been approved by the Department of Education is something I simply cannot answer at this time.

But I do thank Senator Witkos for bringing these

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issues up and I hope that I've been able to provide some insight into that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further on House Bill 7003?

If not, Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on passage of Emergency Certified Bill 7003.

Total number voting	35
Those voting Yea	30

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Those voting Nay 5

Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the Governor of Emergency Certified House Bill 7003.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to meet -- to move House Bill 7003 to the Governor. Without objection, so ordered, sir.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would ask the Clerk to call the final item on Senate Agenda Number 1, which is Emergency Certified House Bill 7004.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Emergency Certified Bill 7004, AN ACT AUTHORIZING

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DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Will the House please come back to order. Will the House please come back to order.

Will the Clerk please call Emergency Certified Bill 7003.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 7003, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND, introduced by Representative Donovan and Senator Williams.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The distinguished gentleman from Hamden, Representative Sharkey, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recuse myself to avoid the appearance of an impropriety.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The Chamber will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Will the House please come back to order.

The Chair recognizes the gentle lady from Yalesville, Representative Fritz. You have the floor, madam.

REP. FRITZ (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance and passage of Emergency Certified Bill, Number 7003.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of passage of the Emergency Certified Bill. Will you remark, madam?

REP. FRITZ (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This, as you know, is our annual conveyance bill, again. And as you well know, this covers the state from Bridgeport to Putnam, from New Britain to New Haven, ball fields to lighthouses, ambulances to armories, easements and sales. This, as we all knew, is our traditional conveyance bill, and I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption, will you remark? Will you remark further on the Emergency Certified Bill? Will you remark? If not, will staff and guests please come to the -- excuse me.

Just got it in under the wire.

The distinguished gentleman from North Branford, Representative Candelora, you have the floor, sir.

Okay, never mind.

Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will the members please take their seat. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine whether your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked.

Will the Clerk please take and announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 7003.

Total Number Voting 139

Necessary for adoption 70

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Those voting Yea	139
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	12

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

The bill passes.

Will the -- please stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CLERK:

House Bill 7002, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE
PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET CONCERNING REVENUE,
introduced by Representative Donovan and Senator
Williams.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Distinguished chair of the Finance Committee,
Representative Staples, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Emergency
Certified Bill -- acceptance and passage of the
Emergency Certified Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER McCLUSKEY:

Question before the Chamber is acceptance and