

PA 11-150

HB6600

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**JOINT  
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**2011**

adequate. We appreciate that the Committee wanted to work with us to do this. And, as I said, we really want to protect those very private records.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much, Doreen. Appreciate that. And thank you, Commissioner. Are there questions or comments from the Committee? Seeing none, okay, thank you very much for your testimony. The next bill for which we have people signed up is House Bill 6600, and our first speaker is Martin Mador.

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Don't see him. Okay. We're going to move on to our next speaker, who is Paula Pearlman. Busy day for FOI, huh? Good morning, Paula.

PAULA PEARLMAN: There we go. I'm actually here to testify on House Bill 6600. Good morning, Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Paula Pearlman. I am an attorney with the Freedom of Information Commission, and along with Pauline Murphy, our Executive Director, I was on the Legislative Paperless Task Force.

The FOI Commission generally supports the Task Force recommendations in House Bill 6600 as they relate to freedom of information and the public's right to access legislative documents in paper and electronic form. Prompt access to these documents is crucial and required under the FOI Act for maintaining transparency.

Especially during the legislative session when

decisions are being made, they may have significant social, economic, and public policy concern impact. The Task Force recommendations address significant concerns that the Commission has regarding the public's right to access legislative documents on a daily basis.

Section two of the bill requires legislative management to set aside the bill room for distribution of printed and electronic copies of documents as well as affording the public access to printed or electronic copies from the Senate and House clerks.

Limited access to documents in paper form may set up a system for those who would not have ready access to a computer or do not know how to even use a computer but get less access than those who do.

Having such a system in place where individuals have access to printed and electronic copies in their entirety will help ensure that all individuals have access and that there will be no disparity of access. The Commission suggests, however, that the proposal be amended to clarify exactly how all printed and electronic copies would be made available.

For instance, it isn't clear as to whether the bill room employees will be required to make copies upon request or whether kiosks would be made available where the public can view documents electronically or print paper copies.

The Commission also supports the amendments proposed in Section 22 of the bill, which would clarify the requirements that a public

agency which maintains public records in a computer system, including legislative records, must, if requested by an individual, provide an electronic copy of the requested electronic record via e-mail.

In an age where electronic communications are common, amending that section would provide for greater and more prompt access to records. The proposed changes to Section 1-212 of the General Statutes and Section 23 of the bill are also positive to the extent that they enhance public access by clarifying that individuals can receive paper or electronic copies upon request.

The Commission, however, suggests that the requirement that agents may have a preference for providing electronic copies be deleted. It creates confusion, and it's unnecessary since individuals already have the right to request paper or electronic copies.

Lastly, the Commission just wants to state that it does recognize that the reduction of paper is economical and environmentally friendly. But it shouldn't, at the same time, diminish or curtail the public's right to access covert records for government transparency. Thank you, and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much for your testimony, and, boy, come in right under the bell.

PAULA PEARLMAN: Oh, I just made it.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Excellent. Very impressive. Are there any questions? We have no questions, but thank you for your testimony

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and for your suggestions.

PAULA PEARLMAN: Great.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: We'll definitely take a good look at them.

PAULA PEARLMAN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Our next speaker is James Spallone representing the Secretary of State's Office.

JAMES SPALLONE: Good morning. Good morning, Chairman Slossberg, Chairman Morin, Ranking Member Hwang, Vice Chair Lesser, Members of the GAE Committee. It's always a pleasure to be here.

My name is James Spallone. I'm the Deputy Secretary of the State, and I'm here to testify on behalf of Denise Merrill, who couldn't be with us today, on Raised Bill 6600, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PAPERLESS TASK FORCE AND THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE REDUCTION OF STATE AGENCY PAPER AND DUPLICATIVE PROCEDURES, as well as Senate Bill 944, AN ACT CONCERNING COST SAVING MEASURES WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE.

SB1059

The legislation in question would repeal requirements that the Secretary of the State certify the amount and purpose of each appropriation made to the General Assembly, distribute printed copies of certain public acts, and distribute printed volumes of bills.

And, in particular, I wanted to focus on the current requirement that the Secretary of State's Office find and distribute copies of

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favorable reported committee bills to the State Library, Library of Congress, and five other law and general university libraries.

Our office discussed this with the seven depository libraries and believe an authentic and preserved print record of these important legislative documents should be maintained. But we can still save on paper by reducing this distribution from seven libraries to two.

And so we support continued distribution of the print file to the State Library and the University of Connecticut School of Law Library as recommended by the Legislative Documents Task Force, at which we had a representative.

Therefore, we support section five of Raised Bill 6600 and would support amending section one of Raised Bill 944 to reduce rather than eliminate depository library distribution. And this testimony is consistent with our previous testimony regarding Raised Bill 1059, Section 256, the Agency Outcomes Bill.

I'd be happy to answer any questions from the Committee, and I thank you for your time and attention this morning.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you, Jamie, and it's always a pleasure to have you here. I don't have any questions. Is there anyone else from the Committee who would like, I feel like we should ask you some questions, but we don't have any.

What you've said I think is very clear, so we appreciate you being here and thank you on behalf of the Secretary of State as well. Okay? Not used to us being this efficient,

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are you? Okay. I see Martin Mador has come in, has arrived, so Martin, if you'd like to, we'll get you in right now. Good morning.

MARTIN MADOR: Good morning, Members of the Committee. My apologies. It's turning into a much busier day than I hoped it would. I'm Martin Mador. I'm the Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Sierra Club.

SB 1196

I'm here talking mainly on 6600. We strongly endorse the campaign to reduce paperwork in state government. Obviously, there's significant environmental benefits to this reduction. For most of us, direct and pain-free access to online documents satisfies our needs.

However, it's very important that paper records remain available to those of the public who do not have this online capability. Good government requires ready public access to information. As an advocacy organization, the Sierra Club advises that access is important to our mission, and that's why I'm here talking today.

So we have two suggestions to improve 6600. One is the issue of funding for preparation of public hearing transcripts. We understand that there's a question about whether the funding is going to be restored for preparation of these transcripts or whether somebody requesting a transcript is going to have to pay for the cost of doing this.

We strongly advise that preparation of these transcripts are paid for so that they're readily available to the public. And we are delighted to join in the recommendations made by CBIA to the Task Force to Study Converting



Legislative Documents. You'll find that in a letter from CBIA dated November 18th, and it's part of their report.

The second suggestion is this. We have had trouble locating state agency regulations in the past, and we'd like you folks to make sure that the regulations of all state agencies are readily available online. Some of them are now. I don't believe all of them are.

While the legislative record establishes intent, it's the language of the agency regulations themselves which actually have the most direct bearing on the activities in question.

So we'd like to make sure that state agency regulations that are developed pursuant to legislation are available online as well. This is extremely important to us, and we're hoping you'll address that.

Finally, very quickly on the land transfer bill, 1196, on the Haddam land swap, I'm not going to speak to the merits of whether the swap is a good idea, but let me just quickly say to do the swap diminishes trust significantly on behalf of a donor that their land is actually going to be used for the purposes to the donation --

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Martin, I'm going to cut you off. We've got a rule that we're really trying to stay to the topic of the particular bill in front of us, and we've got a long number of people who are here to testify on the conveyance act later in this hearing.

I appreciate your intent to try to get, be efficient and have it all up here at once, but

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we're going to try to keep everybody to that rule.

MARTIN MADOR: Okay. Well, fortunate or not, I've said what I wanted to on that, so I'm done.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Better to say you're sorry than to seek permission. We know that well. Okay.

MARTIN MADOR: I apologize for asserting the rules.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: In any case, okay. Well, it's Monday morning. It's good to have a laugh. Are there any questions for Martin? No. Seeing none, thank you for your suggestion.

MARTIN MADOR: Thanks very much.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: And we'll look forward to seeing you on the conveyance act.

MARTIN MADOR: Okay.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Our next speaker is Brooks Campion followed by Mike Johnson. Okay. Good morning.

BROOKS CAMPION: Good morning. Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and other Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee, my name is Brooks Campion. I'm the President of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists. I'm also a lobbyist with Robinson and Cole, but I'm here on behalf of the Association.

I come before you today just to respectfully offer a brief history as background on House Bill 6600 about the recommendations of the Task Force to study the conversion of legislative documents from paper to electronic form.

I just want to state from the outset, the bill before you today represents a major step forward in the right direction thanks to the thoughtful work of the four caucuses of the General Assembly and the leaders of this Committee to engage in a more deliberate migration toward a more paperless General Assembly.

Many of you might be aware already from your mixed experiences this session, last session under Public Act 10-3, you, in the General Assembly, took a bold step many believed would achieve an important policy goal to reduce the consumption of paper in the production of legislative documents.

And in doing so, you had voted to eliminate the transcription of public hearings as well as to eliminate the printing of certain legislative documents, including loose bills and file copies, not just for yourselves but for the public.

While that paperless goal, on its face, is a laudable one, in practice, it has the potential to erode the general public's access to transparent, timely, and reliable information.

Just by way of background, the Task Force met last fall and heard concerns from a diverse group of stakeholders, many of whom argued that a complete migration toward a paperless General Assembly would have the potential to create obstacles for those persons with behavioral, developmental, and/or physical disabilities, as well as for those with limited financial resources or for those who lack access to or proficiency with computers.

We come before you today just to reiterate that we are fearful that a truly paperless process would not only exacerbate the barriers to timely access to information that already exist such as inconsistencies in the distribution of and posting of substitute language among committees and floor amendments.

But beyond those concerns, we in the ACL believe that the General Assembly should not accelerate any more, further, I should say, its paperless efforts at a time when we've had some difficulty with Information Technology System, which is the bedrock of a paperless General Assembly.

And I put some examples in my written testimony about some difficulties we've had with the system. But what I want to underscore, though, is the Office of Information Technology Services has been very helpful, very responsive to those in the public as we've all tried to kind of muddle our way through paperless.

And one of the other recommendations that the Task Force had adopted was to uniformly restore the transcription of public hearings, and we're grateful for that, that that was done this session.

But we're just, again, speaking on this bill to say, please don't go farther, please don't return those cuts. And we also wanted to, oop, well, I'll just stick with my written testimony, written comments.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: I wanted to ask you a question about offsets --

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BROOKS CAMPION: Yes.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: -- and, you know, how to strike the balance. I think that's obviously what everybody's struggling with is how to strike the balance between going paperless to the extent we can and not curtailing the public's access to, you know, legislative documents, which we all support and think it's important and quite necessary.

One of the things, though, if you walk around this building, you'll see, even now, in the committee rooms big, huge blue bins filled to the brim, spilling over with offsets that are just going, you know, that are going to the recycling bin.

At least they're going to the recycling bin, so that's at least one step in the right direction. Where's the balance on something like offsets? Do you have a recommendation as to what that would look like?

BROOKS CAMPION: Well, one of the things I learned in participating in the Task Force is that the Office of Legislative Management said that once you printed something, limiting the number helps cut the cost, but it doesn't give you the big bang for your buck that you would hope. So once they've pretty much put the document on the press to be printed, you're not, you know, the expense is there.

What I would say about offsets in particular, I do regret that there are some in the recycle bin. What I would say to you, Senator Slossberg, is right now, we only, those offsets are delivered to you in the committees, and they're made available to us

and then the public who are about to testify outside in these cubbies, which is great, because you want the public to be able to follow along.

But they're not available to us in the public, so, until the day of your hearing. So when I go down to the bill room right now, even though you've got a boatload that you're dumping in the recycle bin, I can only get a document that is 15 pages or less.

So it's an interesting kind of thing that's going on here whereas you're dumping things out. But on a daily basis, your raised bills, your committee bills, things like that are not printed for the public any longer.

So I would love to find a balance, because we're missing, all this the public has access to during the session is a list of bills, not the text of the bills, a bulletin, a calendar only on session, on House or Senate session days, file copies depending on whether, we're having this mixed experience.

There are file copies now, which is wonderful, because those were cut, too. But right now, there are mailboxes downstairs that folks can rent a box for \$300, and you can get file copies. That's kind of the benefit of renting it, so then you can get a file copy. Otherwise, you're technically not allowed to have a file copy, so, and then journals.

So the fact that things are being thrown away breaks my heart, because I know that the rest of us on the outside, other than a public hearing day, are not getting the, you know, we'd love to see those bills, but we're not seeing them. They're only made available on

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days when you have public hearings in the cubbies provided you have a list that day of what's being heard.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: All right. That's helpful.  
Thank you, Brooks.

BROOKS CAMPION: And if I might just mention, reiterate what I said. Bills of 15 pages or less, documents 15 pages or less are being printed downstairs. This very bill, your bill is 22 pages, this little tiny bill right here.

I wouldn't, if I went down to the bill room other than today, being here for a public hearing and getting it in your cubby, I wouldn't be able to get it or your Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes Bill, which is 300 and something pages. And it --

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: It's over 400 now.

BROOKS CAMPION: Yeah, right.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Sorry.

BROOKS CAMPION: And then Senate Bill 1, the big mega aircraft carrier of energy bills, 144 pages. So no one can go to your bill room right now and go get it. And if they had just printed them or print, made a chunk knowing what some of the big popular, you guys can kind of anticipate what are the big ones, you know, making them, we'd asked for that in the Task Force that perhaps Committee staff might try to anticipate what would be high demand bills so that you wouldn't be wasteful, but you could anticipate the public's need for them, that would be really helpful. And so I think that's a bit of a, the offset copies and loose bills, that's a loss for us on the

public side.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Yeah, well, obviously, if we've got it in our committee room, and we're dumping them, and you're not getting them in the public, we've, we don't have this right yet.

BROOKS CAMPION: I appreciate that.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: So I appreciate you explaining that.

BROOKS CAMPION: Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Are there, yes, Chairman Morin.

REP. MORIN: Good morning, Brooks.

BROOKS CAMPION: Good morning.

REP. MORIN: Thank you for being here. You know, the whole concept, obviously, is laudable. I see a lot of lobbyists, a lot of people out there now, they all have different forms of electronic tools, shall we say, that help them get this. That, I think that was the idea. Why won't that work, or why can't it work, or why isn't it working?

BROOKS CAMPION: Okay. Well, getting back to what I testified on, the threshold concern for us is looking beyond somebody like me who's here every day and thinking of somebody other than us who you want to be here who might not have a laptop, might not have a computer, things like that, so you've got to be thinking beyond the people who have the resources to walk around with, you know, a computer to find stuff.



And that, I confess, that was something, participating in the Task Force, I always tried to say, stop thinking about me and thinking that I work at this firm, and my firm will be able to figure it out. The challenges with, we've had some bumpy roads with the website, the state website, and I mentioned that in my testimony.

And folks from IT are here, and they have been fabulous, but there are going to be more users that are going to, you know, could crash the system someday, so then where do, you know, where do we go? Where do go for information? We also have challenges in wiring, to be perfectly honest with you, in this building.

You guys know it from your caucus rooms. I think there are never enough outlets here, certainly not at the State Capitol. So if you want people to be using electronic devices here, you need to be able to provide at least a place for them to charge.

We need (inaudible) buying some extension cords downstairs, you know, power strips so that folks can charge. But, again, it's don't think about people like us. Just try to think about, you know, it's a hard balance, I admit, between folks who have an ability to have electronic devices and those who don't.

And the other thing I was just going to say, there was a note that was sent out to you guys. You guys have an Internet, and then there was an Extranet. And so, just like anyplace else, sometimes you guys are seeing things, and you think things are coming along just great.

Sometimes to the outside, it's not happening.

And I mentioned this anecdote, and I'm so sorry to the people participating in Task Force, but your own campaign finance bill, we didn't, the document itself was not online, and you were already debating it on the floor. That's not okay, you know.

And then the other thing, just really briefly, if I could just mention, and I'm sorry, I'm going over my time, but on the substitute language issue, this is not on the Paperless Task Force. This is something for you guys to be thinking about, you are the GAE Committee.

This is about you, transparency is your bread and butter here. You guys work so hard for that. Substitute language is a really big deal, as you guys know. The time it takes between a bill being JFSed out of the Committee and coming out in file copy where it's fully engrossed reflecting that substitute language, it's a long time.

So if committees aren't consistent in their posting of substitute language, my understanding is it's Chair's prerogative. The public can be in the dark, you know, if they're just looking on the website and not knowing how much of the, you know, you guys can gut a bill like a fish, and then it's completely different before it comes out in a file copy.

And the public, if they're just relying on, ooh, I know this bill number, I'm going to keep looking online, and then they, they really wouldn't know they have ten days or so so they could have tried to defend themselves better, or they go rah, rah, so that's just another side note that is not necessarily part of this bill but just for context.

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REP. MORIN: Thank you for your answers, Brooks, and, you know, it's, I had spoken with Representative Nafis earlier today, and she's got leadership meetings and different things going on all over the place, and she was hoping to come to be able to testify.

And she had mentioned that there was testimony submitted, and I don't see it, so we're going to have to, you know, we'll work with her and her committee, too.

BROOKS CAMPION: Thank you. I appreciate it. And I tried to testify on the legislative management committee night of appropriations to say thank you for restoring it, but please don't do it again, you know, but recognizing it might keep going down that road again. But thank you so much for raising the bill in the first place.

REP. MORIN: Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Representative Lesser followed by Representative Fleischmann.

REP. LESSER: Thank you, Madame Chair. And I just wanted to see if you could expand a little bit more on what we can do. It seems like the paper is sort of beside the point, that the real problem that we should be addressing is how to get Office of Information Technology to meet the needs of the public.

And I was wondering if you'd be able to, you know, work with us on doing that and figure out what we could do to make sure that the JFS language, for example, is available.

BROOKS CAMPION: I, I mean, and as I said, thank

you for that question, and as I said, the Office of Information Technology Services is fabulous, and you have a bunch of really creative, talented people there, so you're in great shape for starters.

But trying, it's, I imagine it would be hard for them when it's Chair's prerogative to be directing chairs about how they should run their committees and posting things, although I think perhaps on a kind of a systemic level, management and leadership should be thinking about how to make it uniform among committees about asking, once you guys have voted on substitute language to mandate that it's posted in a timely manner, maybe that afternoon, the very next morning, online as the substitute bill before it's out on file copy. That's for starters.

The amendments process is a challenge for people of the outside, too. Often, and we've had some times in the House, an amendment is never posted online, or we haven't gotten a paper copy in the House Clerk's Office, and you voted on it, woo, you know, in the House.

And in terms of, I get the ambush quality of that. I understand the political value in that. But from a public transparency point of view, it's not great. People don't have an opportunity to see that before it happens.

REP. LESSER: Now specifically with regards to the content of this bill --

BROOKS CAMPION: Yeah.

REP. LESSER: -- and you're concerns about lacking access to bills, what, I mean, I guess I'm trying to have a, trying to get a better sense

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of what your main concern is. Is it just that the website goes down sometimes, because that seems like something we should be able to address.

BROOKS CAMPION: Right. And to be perfectly honest, the bill itself is a lot leaner than it could have been meaning, in a good way, because, fortunately, you're leaders. You guys made a decision to kind of change, turn the ship around in terms of eliminating transcripts and things like that.

So I only mention those things kind of to give you context for why this is here before you. But in terms of the, our concern is, right, the, you know, increased volume on that website. I'm not a computer person.

I don't know if it's bandwidth, I don't know if it's server capacity, I don't know what it is, but the system needs to be built to accommodate increased number of users on it, okay, and, again, I'm not a computer person.

And IT is doing a great job, and they already have a consultant, I understand, to be studying kind of the system capabilities now and what they need for the future.

But in terms of documents, as Senator Slossberg said, when you don't have an IT, if you, number one, if you don't have a computer, and you don't know how to use it, and you don't have the resources, coming into the building is very alienating to people, understandably so, if you don't know what you're doing.

So you want the public to be able to come here spontaneously, come, sit in the audience, and

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follow along with what you guys are speaking about, what you're debating about or testify. That's optimal.

So you want paper documents still even in limited form so that people of all capabilities could come into your building and see this is their building too and be able to follow along with what's going on. So that's why there's some level of protection of these printed documents is really important.

And when Senator Slossberg said that there are offset copies being thrown away into the recycle bin, fortunately, it just breaks my heart, because I've been, you know, we, you know, information is so important here, and being able to see it in print is very important as a counterbalance to being wholly dependent on the IT system that has limitations like any IT system. I'm not just suggesting it's any more vulnerable than another, but, so --

REP. LESSER: Thank you.

BROOKS CAMPION: Thank you.

REP. LESSER: Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you, Madame Chair. And thank you, again, for your testimony on this. I do appreciate the way you're looking out for the public as a whole.

And what I'm wondering is based on your experience, when people come to the State Capitol to give testimony on a bill while there's a committee that's listening to

testimony on 20 bills, what percentage of the general public shows up with a laptop or electronic device that allows them to sort of follow what's going on, and what percentage seems to sort of be bemused and turning to people who have devices with them to figure out what's happening that day?

BROOKS CAMPION: And I'll, and the funny thing is, I think of your, the nights when you have public hearings for education, I think of, I see people, you always know that there's an education, because there are all these people who are very computer savvy, but there are younger generations who are sitting there with their laptops, and they're getting ready to come and testify before you.

But you're absolutely right. People generally don't, people other than us who are camped out in this building for better or for worse all day long wouldn't think to come up here with a laptop.

We, you know, we have clients who come up here and have written their testimony and read the bill and prepared it, but they wouldn't necessarily come up here with their laptops.

So you're right, to follow along, they still, if they forgot it, they need it, they'll go to your cubby outside your hearing, or they would go to the bill room, and, unfortunately, as I said, right now in the bill room, if the document's over 15 pages, they're out of luck, so --

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you. And then just the, if I may, Madame Chair, one other follow-up. This is the first I heard of a 15-page rule in the bill room. How long has there been that

limitation, and do you have a sense of where that came from?

BROOKS CAMPION: Yeah, really quickly, because I know you guys have other bills, what happened, you guys adopted the budget last year. These cuts were made. And then people woke up to the fact that these cuts are looming, so you had a task force. So, honestly, that whole, the 'cart kind of got ahead of the horse.

So this task force met, restored some things, thank goodness, the leadership restored funding for some things, but then in kind of I think straddling both worlds of trying to go more paperless, save money, save resources but also trying to still be responsive on an on-demand basis, that bill room, I think, is just, honestly, my impression is it's just this session.

And so, and I think that some folks who would testify behind me who've had the same experience, but my impression is it's just this session. And to be truthful, too, some committees, too, have even told us, and we have gone to a committee, and they say, well, I'm not going to print you an agenda, we're paperless.

That was never a part of what you guys did. So people, I think, it's, I wouldn't say catch-as-catch-can. People are very thoughtful here, and people know what they're doing, but people are kind of taking it to the extreme in the paperless movement. So, again, it's just been rolled out, it's bumpy, and so that's kind of why we're here.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you very much. This has been very helpful. And let me just say, that



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15-page limit seems to me interesting but arbitrary since a lot of the most important things we deal with end up being big bills, and why should people have access to little bills but not big bills? I don't, my, I don't think I could explain that to my five-year-old, so anyhow, thank you very much.

BROOKS CAMPION: Thank you very much.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay. Are there any further questions? Okay. Brooks, thank you very much for your help.

BROOKS CAMPION: Thank you very much.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: And we look forward to working with you.

BROOKS CAMPION: Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Our next speaker is Mike Johnson followed by Rafie Podolsky.

MIKE JOHNSON: Chairman Slossberg, Chairman Morin, Vice Chair Lesser, and Ranking Member Hwang, thank you very much for listening to my testimony today.

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The first thing I wanted to address, because it came up, were tablets. I'm actually testifying off of a tablet today. I know a lot of people carry them in the building.

But the first thing I wanted to do was create the situation that we normally see at the Legislature, which is we host a lobby day. I've hosted two myself, for the ACLU and the MS Society.

Members come in from the public, and they go

up to the Capitol, and they talk about meeting their Legislator for the first time, talking about the issue that brought them to the building, and they find their Legislator in the middle of a committee meeting, in the middle of a public hearing, could be a JF deadline day.

They're running into a vote, but they really want to talk to their constituent, and they say, yes, I'll absolutely support that, but I really need to see the language.

So the problem is that that person does not have a PDA, that person does not have a tablet, and they need that hard copy either from the first floor or from somewhere else where they could get it.

And that, I totally agree with Representative Fleischmann's comments about the 15-page number being arbitrary. Sometimes you have bills that are of dire importance, and you need those copies. And they may be 80 pages, and they may be, you know, 150 pages.

So I wanted to address that first before I began, you know, addressing the sections of the bill which I support. And my name is Mike Johnson. I'm a lobbyist for Betty Gallo and Company, and I'm a member of the Executive Board for the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists.

Section 1 ensures the continuation of processing transcripts efficiently and expediently. The legal community and general public both heavily rely on these transcripts to monitor testimony that was not submitted and to interpret questions and answers exchanged from members of the General

Assembly.

Section 2 acknowledges the necessary availability of hard copies of the House and Senate calendars and journals. These documents invite members of the public to easily monitor the progress made by both chambers during session.

And in this piece in the testimony, I address how printing something out on 8 1/2 x 11 paper from a laser jet printer is actually costing the state more money than if they have a contract with AES or they have a contract with the Office of Legislative Management, and they're printing these things in bill booklets.

The font is much smaller, usually half the size, and it's delivered to a bill box or delivered into the bill information room on the first floor. You're saving yourself time, you're saving yourself effort, and you're also saving, you know, your staff from having to print these documents out.

Section 3 endorses the cost-saving measure of providing electronic templates for State of Connecticut symbols. So everything that you see from LCO's office, any document that may or may not come out of your office, has to have that State of Connecticut symbol.

We endorse ITS's idea that came up during the Legislative Paperless Task Force to have that as an automatic template that's printed. Sections 4 and 5 embrace the necessity of posting the final version of the bill two days after passage by both the House and the Senate.

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Of course, from, Spallone from the Secretary of the State's Office addressed the statutory requirements to make sure that you have legal documents for the legal libraries and also for the Secretary of the State's Office. And, finally, Section Seven amends the costly printing procedures of the Program Review and Investigations Committee.

Hard copies of these reports, which are often hundreds of pages long and in color, may be available in the PRI Committee room or upon request after but may not necessarily need to be there in the committee meeting or the public hearing.

And I totally agree with that, and I understand that printing these documents on legal paper, on glossy paper, in color is very expensive. And in these tough economic times, we need to find more efficient ways of doing things around Yellow Bee and the State Capitol.

So I wanted to thank you very much for listening to my strong support of this bill and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay. Thank you for your testimony, Mike. Are there questions? No? Okay.

MIKE JOHNSON: Thanks.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you. The next speaker is Rafie Podolsky followed by Chris VanDeHoef. Good afternoon.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Good afternoon. (Inaudible).  
Oh, there, sorry. Thank you. I hope the

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clock starts over here, but my name is Raphael Podolsky. I'm a lawyer with the Legal Assistance Resource Center in Hartford. We're part of the Legal Aid Programs, and I'm here in some sense as, in, well, I'm here as a lobbyist for those programs.

The, in my written testimony, I've suggested four specific changes to the bill that affect Section 2, 4, 11, 24, and 30. And I'm not going to say any more about that, because I want to talk about some of the other aspects that the bill touches on.

It's difficult to testify on this bill, as Brooks Campion said, because so much of the issue is not necessarily literally word for word in this bill. I would say that I endorse the testimony of the Freedom of Information Commission.

The suggestion that regulations be online I think would be a good thing for you to add to this bill. And Brooks' testimony I also support. The, there are, I think there are some principles that you should make sure occur in how the paperless aspects are done.

Number one, public access should be above everything else should be your number one principle. And the biggest part of that is to understand not only does everyone not have a computer, but not everyone has a printer.

And having a computer doesn't mean you can print anything out onto hard copy yourself and that you are looking at both things that happen at the Legislature and things that happen in other places like libraries and other archival resource locations.

All of that has to do with public access, and that should trump anything else. The second thing is you need to make sure that you create, this is a principle, you create a permanent history of what happens here.

And you need to make sure that's done in a way that it's safe, and it's not going to get lost, for example, if computers crash. And number three, you need to consider the smooth and efficient functioning of the Legislature.

And parts of that have to do with cost saving and the elimination of waste as has been pointed out, a piece of perfect paper being thrown away, but also providing an efficiency that comes with access to materials so that Legislators can do their jobs, which is to understand what's being proposed and evaluated.

In terms of practical issues, things that have been of particular concern to me, number one has already been mentioned, has been the issue of public hearing transcripts, which you should understand. The budget, the Legislature had never had a hearing on, to my knowledge, on any of the issues of these cost savings of cutting out bills, cutting out transcripts.

It happened because it was put into the budget at the last stage of the process, and most of us did not know about it until after the fact. I'll try and close up quickly. There's the public hearing transcripts, very important to have for legislative history.

There's all the issues of the physical availability of bills, whether it's loose bills, bill booklets, file booklets, all those

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things are really important, and then the documents that let the public know what's going on, which is the bulletin, the calendars, the journals, and not just on the days that there's a regular session. They tech bills all the time. You can't follow them if you're not keeping track of every session day.

And also to the extent that we go paperless, we need to think about what is available to the public physically in the building, the need for more computers, the need for outlets, the need for printers, and the need for somebody to put the paper into the printers so that you have a, you can make this whole system function.

Look at it from the point of view of the general public and of people who are not walking around with printers, papers, and computers in their hands. Thank you very much. I welcome the opportunity to answer questions if I could.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you, Rafie, and I think, you know, we have your testimony on the specifics, and I'm sure that we'll continue to be working on this as we move forward and make sure that the public has that access.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: I don't have any questions for you. Are there members of the Committee who would like to ask some questions? Yes, Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you. I just, there was one point you made that I just wanted to follow up on. You talked about the cost to

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the public and to the system if we don't print out the documents.

And it's interesting to me, because that's a different type of cost than the cost of printing, but it's a real one nonetheless. In terms of the folks who you deal with, do you have a sense of how common it is that they arrive at the Capitol with computer or PDA or something that would allow them to access something that was paperless?

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Yeah, well, now we represent a very low-income constituency, and they arrive without any of those kinds of equipment. And so for them, they're very much dependent on what is physically available in hard copy here.

The other thing I think you should just think about yourself. I mean, you have the same issue all the rest of us have. You read things either on paper or electronically. And the smaller the thing that you read it on and the longer the thing that it is you're reading, the less possible it is to actually read and absorb it.

So, for example, if you're, you know, if you're trying to read something on a BlackBerry on a screen that's this big, and it's a 150 page-bill, I mean, you can't do it.

I mean, it's just, and but even if you're looking at something that's, you know, the equivalent of a third or a half of the page, you know, a two- or three-page bill maybe, but if anything has any degree of length so that the reasons why people need to be able to look at things in paper if they want to be able to actually absorb them, and I would think that



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would apply to the members of the Legislature every bit as much as it does to the public.

You want to make sure, if there are documents that you would want to have on paper, then the public needs them even more, because they're not used to reading those documents the same way that you are. But, yeah, in response to your question, certainly my constituency does not come near with electronic commitment in any substantial sense that they could use.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: Thank you. That's helpful. And you've led me to have two thoughts about this that never crossed my mind before your testimony.

Number one, that this may pose problems for those who need reading glasses, just, you know, and number two, that it may in a sense be regressive because of the fact that you're talking about people of less means who would be more shut out. And so I appreciate your testimony.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Thank you. And Brooks pointed out, for those of us who spend a lot of time here, we are forced to find ways as best we can to adapt to the system.

But for people who don't spend their lives in this building, they're not geared to doing that. And that's a major group that you need to make sure is not put in an adverse position.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you for your testimony, Rafie. We appreciate it, as always.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Thank you very much.

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SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Okay. Our next speaker is  
Chris VanDeHoef. Good afternoon.

CHRIS VANDEHOEF: Good morning, is it afternoon  
already? Wow. Good afternoon, Senator  
Slossberg, Members of the GAE Committee. My  
name is Chris VanDeHoef. I am a principal at  
the TCORS Capitol Group, a lobbying firm here  
in Hartford, a registered lobbyist, and I also  
happen to represent the Connecticut Commission  
on Freedom of Information.

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However, I'm not here on their behalf. I'm  
here, actually, on my own behalf. I'm going  
to just touch on a couple things in my  
testimony, and then talk about a few comments.  
I have filed, just for the record, I have  
filed an FOI complaint with the Freedom of  
Information Commission.

A few weeks ago, I had a conference call  
coming up. I needed access to the days' list  
of bills, was unable to get on with my  
BlackBerry, and requested just a list of bills  
from the bill record or the bill room, was  
told that they wouldn't give it to me, and in  
order to get it, I needed to subscribe to a  
bill box, which as Brooks mentioned, was \$300.

This is something my firm, we have decided not  
to invest in, and I, again, I just asked for  
that. He said it was online if I needed it.  
I explained why I couldn't get it. He  
wouldn't give it to me. They're, by the way,  
just for a side note, they're very capable and  
competent people down in the bill room.

I enjoy working with them almost on a daily  
basis, but this day in particular was sort of  
frustrating. So I did file an FOI complaint.  
That is a pending complaint. I suspect it

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wouldn't be adjudicated for a while. So that's just a side note. A couple things just I noted during Brooks' and Rafie's testimony, Representative Fleischmann, you'd mentioned in terms of the 15-page thing.

In past experience, they've always been very good at printing, you know, to a reasonable amount off of the computer, but what always worked is that if it was a larger bill, say this bill or one of the other large bills, they always had a copy of that bill there in the big, you know, thing that, and could give you a copy of that.

Now it's, well, how much or how many pages is it? If it's more than 15, we just simply don't have access to it. And something I was thinking about it while listening to this is that, I think Rafie noted this, is that if it's a large bill, the chances are in order for myself anyways to read it affectively and comprehend it affectively, I need to be able to take notes on it and sort of pour through it.

And while I'm lucky enough to have purchased an iPad, which is a great device for this place, I can't take notes on the iPad while I'm reading through a long bill or flip back and take a look at referencing statute, etc.

And I think it just makes it very difficult when you're talking about things that have wide-ranging effect on a lot of different people or a lot of different companies or whatever it may be to really sort of hone in on a very individual spot it could be tough to get through.

So I just wanted to note that, and one other

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thing is that the IT department here is fantastic, but as we all know, technology just isn't perfect. And when days where the Wi-Fi is down or the website is down, it is very, very difficult to get any information on anything that's happening in this building apart from an agenda.

So, you know, that it just something to keep in mind as we move forward. I know finding a balance on this is not easy but just something to keep in mind. Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: So you couldn't get the list of bills, because they told you it was online?

CHRIS VANDEHOEF: Correct.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: But they didn't, and they, so obviously, nobody was going to print anything out for you, and you --

CHRIS VANDEHOEF: Right, and (inaudible).

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: -- and there's no, there was no access to a computer for you.

CHRIS VANDEHOEF: There was a computer right there. I needed it fairly quickly, and, you know, to be honest, I didn't go attempt to print it. I know there are two computers right there where the bill boxes are.

I don't think they have print capability, and I did not ask the bill room whether or not they could print it for me. It was sort of a quick exchange thingee, and it's just a list of bills I didn't think would be difficult to get. And, you know, for the record, he was very kind about it but just wouldn't provide it to me.

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SENATOR SLOSSBERG: In the past, Chris, if you went to the bill room and asked for a list of bills -

CHRIS VANDEHOEF: Up until, you know, I mean, I've always had a bill box prior to the session, so I got it every morning with the packet of stuff that Brooks discussed. The session up until that day, they had been pretty good about it.

I would always go first thing in the morning and ask for it. This was later in the afternoon, so, you know, he didn't tell me they were out of them. Maybe they were out of them, but they have always been pretty good about it up until then.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: All right. Thank you. Questions? Okay.

CHRIS VANDEHOEF: Great. Thank you.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much for your testimony. Okay. The next bill for which we have speakers signed up for is Senate Bill 1188, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS. And our first speaker is Mary Alice Moore Leonhardt.

MARY ALICE MOORE LEONHARDT: Good morning.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Good morning. Actually, it's good afternoon.

MARY ALICE MOORE LEONHARDT: Good afternoon. We're there already. Thank you. Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, Members of the Committee, it's my pleasure to be here today to present to you testimony on this very

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MARGARET MINER: By the way, I think it's Section 4b-47, the CEPA statute.

REP. MORIN: Well, thank you very much. It's a different testimony than I've heard, so I appreciate it. Any questions? Thanks so much for coming.

MARGARET MINER: Okay. Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Matt Hallisey and Marty Mador, and that --

MATTHEW HALLISEY: Good afternoon, Representative Morin and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Matthew Hallisey. I'm Director of Government Relations and Legislative Council for Connecticut Construction Industries Association in Wethersfield.

I'm a Past President of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists and a current member of that organization. I'm here to testify on my own behalf on House Bill 6600, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PAPERLESS TASK FORCE AND THE TASK FORCE'S STUDY, THE REDUCTION OF STATE AGENCY PAPER AND DUPLICATIVE PROCEDURES.

I've submitted written remarks to the Committee as well. And you've previously heard from several distinguished members of ACL, so I will try not to repeat their comments.

While I'm generally supportive of many of the Task Force recommendations and much of House Bill 6600, I respectfully request that Members of the Committee carefully monitor its

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progress and implementation mindful of the importance of transparency and the public's need for information and access to important documents.

I am concerned that by eliminating the daily printing of offset copies of loose bills, bill booklets, calendars, journals, and other information that was formerly readily available, the public's access to information has been impaired.

While much of the information is readily available to the public at the click of a mouse, not everyone in the state has the capability or means to access information electronically. Reducing sets of other materials that were printed just last year may not save the state as much money as is projected.

Indeed, it could have the unintended effect of generating more printed copies and slowing down the legislative process. Also, there should be consistency in making such materials available. File copies, along with other documents, are available to members of the public who rent a bill box, but the bill room provides some of the same documents at no cost.

In implementing the Task Force recommendations in House Bill 6600, I would urge the Committee to recommend a policy so that there is consistency among committees related to making substitute language available to the public electronically in a timely fashion.

Perhaps Section 5 of the bill could be amended to require committees to make bills reported favorably available within 24 hours of final

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action. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

REP. MORIN: Thank you, Matt. I think we heard an awful lot of testimony earlier, and while I applaud the work and the spirit of which the work of the study was put in place, we've heard some very good arguments that will help us probably craft it a little better, but thank you very much for your time. Any questions? Thanks.

MATTHEW HALLISEY: Thank you.

REP. MORIN: Marty Mador.

MARTIN MADOR: Good afternoon. I'm still Martin Mador, the Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club, and I'll be very brief. This is on the land transfer Bill 1196.

The Sierra Club has not looked into the merits of the swap of the land, so I'm not going to talk about the merits or whether one piece of land is the same value however you do the valuations. The other, we are extremely concerned about the chilling effect that this is going to have on donations of open space.

We have a state goal of preserving 21 percent of our state land as open space. We're not there yet. Right now, we're very short of money to do this. There's no money in the budget this year for the open space acquisition program.

We need to do everything we can to make sure that we can acquire open space when we can. If this land transfer takes place as I understand it, it's going to have a chilling



TESTIMONY TO THE  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

*HB-6600 – “An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The  
Legislative Paperless Task Force And The Task Force To Study  
The Reduction Of State Agency Paper And Duplicative Procedures”*

It is laudable that the Legislature is seeking ways to save money by increasing efficiency and reducing redundancy by examining ways to reduce legislative printing, especially during these tight fiscal times. The Legislative Paperless Task Force is to be commended for their hard work and the recommendations they put forth to assist in achieving this goal, as well as the Government Administration & Elections committee for raising this bill.

However, it is critical that this not be done in a vacuum and that careful consideration is given to protecting the public's ability to access information -and- ensuring the preservation of the legislative record.

The biggest obstacle in the way of having this proposal be effective and not hamper the two objectives outlined above is the lack of (1) consistency among committees; (2) adequate staff training; and (3) consistent internet access.

In the last several weeks alone I personally have experienced several committees starting public hearing sign-ups ½ to 1 hour earlier than what was posted in the bulletin; one committee refusing on several occasions to provide a copy of a meeting agenda; the Legislative Library disallowing printing of any legislative document that exceeds a certain page length; the inability to log on to the wi-fi in the building due to the high level of use by others in the building; and, on at least one occasion, the entire General Assembly website being completely inaccessible for several hours. In addition, as we move through the committee process and bills are being voted on, some committees are taking more than a week's time to post minutes of meetings - let alone substitute language on bills.

As someone who has worked in the building, both on staff and in the private sector, for more than 13 years I understand the process of the General Assembly. Even with this experience, I still find it difficult at times to obtain needed “public” information and find staff willing to be helpful in facilitating the dissemination of this “public” information.

The average person coming into this building seeking to partake in the legislative process, without the guidance of someone knowledgeable about the building to assist in the navigation, has great difficulty finding the information they are seeking. Imagine this same member of the public coming upon signs on committee office doors banning entry by anyone but legislators – a common occurrence with some committees during the JF process. I urge you to take a challenge – ask a constituent, with no previous knowledge of the building or process, to come on a busy day anonymously and attempt to accomplish certain tasks asking questions only of staff. Ask them to relay back to you their experience and the treatment they received from committee staff. I am confident that you will find it to be enlightening.

With all of this said, seeking to achieve greater efficiencies in the process is an excellent goal. However, please be sure that it comes along with (1) improved wi-fi access and CGA external internet site protections; (2) comprehensive staff training; (3) standardized rules; and (4) careful protection of the “openness” of our government to which the Constitution protects the public's ability to “petition” it.

Thank you,  
Kachina Walsh-Weaver  
Resident, Clinton CT  
(860) 664-0191

March 21, 2011

***Chris VanDeHoef testifying in opposition to House Bill 6600 An Act  
Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Paperless Task Force and  
the Task Force to Study the Reduction of State Agency Paper and Duplicative  
Procedures***

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin and distinguished Members of the Government, Administration and Elections Committee, my name is Chris VanDeHoef and I am testifying in opposition to HB 6600 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Paperless Task Force and the Task Force to Study the Reduction of State Agency Paper and Duplicative Procedures.

I am a Principal with the TCORS Capitol Group, LLC, a lobbying firm in Hartford and I am a registered lobbyist - I also represent the CT Commission on Freedom of Information (CCFOI). However, I am not testifying in my role with CCFOI or on behalf of my company. I am testifying in opposition to this legislation as a private citizen.

For the record, I have filed an FOI complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission due to my inability to gain access to a list of bills a few weeks ago. The short of the complaint: I did not have access to the Internet and I needed to see the list of bills from that day for a phone conversation I was going to be having later in the day. One of the gentlemen in the bill room refused to provide me with the information, he informed me the information was available "online" and was disinterested in my lack of access to the Internet.

This does not mention the inability to print legislation that is over fifteen (15) pages, which would include this very bill I am testifying on, or the list of Committees that Members sit on, or anything else that was formally available. I am aware that I could "subscribe" to a bill box for \$300.00 per Session. However, we have decided that was not an investment we would make and that we would continue to use the Internet or request copies when necessary.

It needs to be noted that technology is not perfect and, in spite of the hard work and dedication from the very capable employees in the IT department, the wireless access in the LOB has crashed numerous times and so has the state legislative website. That makes the documents 100% unattainable and this is unquestionably unacceptable

In short, it seems relatively backwards from the public discussions the legislature and the Administration have put forward over the past years pursuing a more "open" government. However, while the idea to move to a more streamlined, technology savvy system is a laudable goal, it, unfortunately, I'm afraid, is a step backward in regards to government being as open and transparent as possible. It is unacceptable for the legislature to be acting on legislation that might have wide

sweeping and drastic affects when that very legislation isn't available in a paper form and to everyone who cares to read it, review or opine on it.

In this day and age of drastic budget shortfalls and declining revenue, it is understandable that anything and everything is on the chopping block. That said, I caution this Committee, the Legislature and the Governor, that the relatively small savings that cutting printing costs gains does not supersede the worth that maintaining access to these documents provides.

# Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut, Inc.

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## H.B. 6600 -- Legislative Paperless Task Force

Government Administration and Elections Committee public hearing -- March 21, 2011  
Testimony of Raphael L. Podolsky

**Recommended Committee action: CHANGES AS NEEDED**

This bill attempts to codify the recommendations of the legislative task that was appointed to study ways to convert paper documents to electronic form. Those recommendations were dominated, to a large extent, by a \$626,000 budget cut that had been inserted into the FY 2012 and FY 2013 budgets of the Office of Legislative Management, which the Budget-in-Detail (but not the Appropriations Act itself or any implementer bill) directed the elimination of the transcription of public hearing testimony and the elimination of the printing of loose bills (public hearing bills), bill and file booklets, bill lists, and similar documents. Some of these changes would, if implemented, at best be short-sighted and at worst would undermine the legislature's own authority and make public access significantly more difficult.

Some of these changes are codified in H.B. 6600. Others are authorized, rather than mandated (e.g., by requiring the provision of calendars and journals only on regular session days). Many of the changes are either not objectionable or are problematic only because it is our believe that they are intended to eliminate the printing of certain documents, even though they do not specifically say so. As a result, it is difficult to testify to this bill in a specific way. Instead, this testimony identifies several major areas where we believe it is important to make adequate provision for paper copies. It is our hope that the Committee will find a way to make sure that the production of such copies is continued or restored.

- Public hearing transcripts: There seems to be a general recognition that the elimination of public hearing transcripts would be a mistake. The Task Force recommended that they not be eliminated, it is my belief that leadership has taken action to implement that recommendation, and it is my hope that state budget will restore funding. Transcripts do not involve reprints but rather the creation of the document itself and will not exist at all in an accessible form unless transcribed. This is particularly important in regard to legislative history, where public hearing transcripts, like floor transcripts, are often cited by the courts in construing statutes. In some cases, they are the only substantive legislative history on a public act. If the legislature fails to create a transcription, it is voluntarily abandoning its own role in maximizing the likelihood that courts will construe statutes in light of their actual legislative purpose. I have attached a copy of an article on public hearing transcripts from the Connecticut Law Tribune.

- Other original documents: It is essential that original documents be archived, so that all reliance for a permanent record is not placed in electronic versions. Storage in multiple locations and by more than one means is a way of preventing losses that could be catastrophic if computer systems crash. H.B. 6600 changes the number of original copies or the entities that will receive them (see, for example, lines 119-126 in Section 5). We do not claim to know how many archival copies are needed or where they should be housed, but we urge the Committee to look to the State Librarian for guidance on these matters. In addition, copies of materials relied on by the legislature itself, such as the Rulings of the Speaker, should continue to be available in print. We agree that it is not necessary to provide individual copies of the full general statutes to all legislators, as long as copies are easily available in immediate access to their offices.
- Copies of documents: Most seem to agree that, in past years, more copies of many legislative documents have been printed for public distribution than was necessary. This year, the legislature is continuing to print bill lists and copies of files but is not printing bill booklets at all and is printing calendars and journals only on regular session days. It is requiring clerks to make copies of loose bills for public hearings on copying machines. We are not sure as to what the practice will be for paper copies of engrossed bills, which in the past have been available in hard copy. We urge you to maintain the printing currently being done (files, engrossed bills, session-day calendars and journals, etc.) and to restore the printing of a reasonable number of (a) bill booklets, (b) House and Senate calendars and journals on all session days, including days of technical sessions, and (c) loose bills.
  - Importance to legislators: Bill booklets are of particular importance to legislators themselves. It is extremely difficult to read bills of any substantial length on a computer screen. If we want legislators to take their responsibilities seriously, they need to have paper copies of the bills that they are considering. The printing of the list of bills is not a substitute. That is also why it is important to continue the printing of files.
  - Importance to advocates: Bill booklets, calendars, and journals are all of major importance to those who monitor legislation for their own organizations or for others. Bill booklets are important in the same way that file booklets are important. Calendars and journals on technical session days are important for tracking bills, which can be referred or gain "stars" on those days. The need for hard copies of these materials is compounded by the sometimes erratic performance of the legislature's on-line system.
  - Importance to the general public: Both loose bills and hard copies of the Bulletin are especially important for members of the general public, who do not necessarily come to the Legislative Office Buildings armed with copies of the bills or with computers. Nor do all members of the public have a computer or have internet access. We are told that the Bill Room will not print out bills that are more than 15 pages long, and we can easily imagine the back-up that would occur if many people wanted copies of bills at the same time.
- Other suggestions: We urge the Committee to insist that other improvements to the document delivery system be made, including the following:

- The filing of amendments should be incorporated into the bill tracking system.
  - The existing bill tracking system should provide notice in real time rather than once a day, particularly in regard to floor amendments.
  - To the extent that the public is expected to obtain copies of documents electronically, the legislature should provide a greater number of computers, with attached printers, in the Legislative Office Building, and should assure that they are monitored for adequate paper supply, instruction, and breakdown.
  - At the committee level, copies of proposed amendments and substitute bill packets should be provided to the general public at the same time they are distributed to committee members and, in particular, before the meeting starts if they are available to committee members before the meeting starts.
- *Specific changes proposed to H.B. 6600:*
    - *We oppose the new language proposed in l. 27 of H.B. 6600 which seems to eliminate printing of calendars and journals for technical sessions, and we recommend deletion of Section 4 (l. 96-111), which seems to assume that members will not receive paper copies of files.*
    - *In Section 11(b) (l. 261-282), we suggest that the statute specifically require that, in addition to the copies for the House and Senate Clerk, at least one copy of the general statutes and the supplement be provided to the clerk of each legislative committee and that sufficient copies of the statutes and supplement be provided to each legislative leadership office. This will facilitate a reduced number of requests for statutes by individual legislators.*
    - *Section 24 of the bill (l. 566-577) should be revised to make clear that agencies cannot refuse to provide copies of notices and correspondence to a person who is not able or does not want to receive them electronically. Many people, and especially low-income people, do not have email addresses or access their email only rarely. Electronic delivery of messages on a routine basis should not be permitted except to persons who expressly and knowingly consent to such an arrangement and waive paper notice. Line 569-571 of H.B. 6600 should be changed to read: "...may [shall] use electronic notification and correspondence with such clients where deemed appropriate by such agency and where not in conflict with any provision of the general statutes, provided that such clients have expressly and knowingly consented to receive such notice and correspondence electronically and expressly and knowingly waived paper notice."*
    - *We are unsure of the intent behind the repeal of C.G.S. 3-84 in Section 30 of the bill (l. 620). If the purpose is to substitute electronic for hard copies of public acts that take effect upon passage, C.G.S. 3-84 should be amended rather than repealed.*

## Legislative History May Become History

LAWYERS OPOSE MOVE TO ELIMINATE  
WRITTEN HEARING TRANSCRIPTS

By THOMAS B. SCHEFFY

When the meaning of a state statute is not clear, one of the first places judges and lawyers look is the carefully-indexed archive of public testimony and discussion in hearings of committees of the Connecticut legislature. Those words have been carefully archived in the state library in Hartford since 1911, said state librarian Kendall Wiggin.

In the modern era, there's another place to find such information. The Web pages of the legislative committees post public hearing transcripts. Thanks to computer word searches, these can be searched effortlessly — even when a day's testimony covers scores of bills and has over a hundred speakers.

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## Transcripts Vital For Determining Legislative Intent

■ FROM LEGISLATIVE ON PAGE 1

In the June special session, the state Office of Legislative Management has stopped transcribing audio recordings of public hearings. The task force's goal is to save money by converting legislative documents from paper to electronic form. The OLM has lopped the entire \$215,000 annual cost of public hearing transcripts from its current budget. It's also hoping to cut an additional \$450,000 from the legislature's \$2.1 billion annual printing costs by halting daily printing of proposed bills.

"They're acting like this is a done deal," said Colleen Murphy, a task force member and executive director of the state Freedom of Information Commission. The committee chairs are Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, D-Bridgeport, and Beverly Henry, a legislative administrator for the Public Health Committee.

Judges, appellate lawyers, legislative lobbyists and open government groups are appalled.

"That would be a very, very bad thing, in my view," said senior Judge David M. Borden, the former acting chief justice of the state Supreme Court.

Borden, who currently is active on the Appellate Court, also teaches a course on statutory interpretation at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Early in his career, he was counsel to the legislative Judiciary Committee, and knows first-hand how the legislative process works. Public hearing testimony, and the lawmakers' discussion of policy at those hearings, can be "one of the best sources of the purpose behind a statute, which is a very important part of statutory interpretation."

At these legislative hearings, "you have people coming to the legislature saying, 'Look

**The state of Connecticut has a valuable resource in its current collection of legislative history, and officials said simply halting transcription to paper and switching to audio might not be wise.**

here's this problem, and it has to be solved, and here's this statute that's being proposed. You have people speaking against it, and for it. It's a very rich source of the meaning of the statute."

### Pound Foolish

Experienced lawyer-lobbyist Bourke Spellacy, of Hartford's Updike, Spellacy & Kelly, said it would be penny wise and pound foolish to stop producing public hearing transcripts.

"To deprive the public and the courts of a



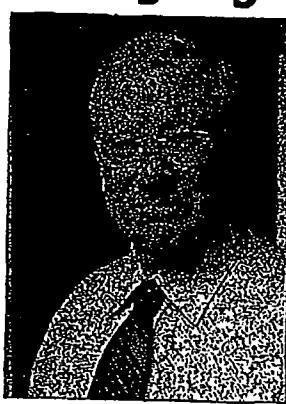
State Librarian Kendall Wiggin said there hasn't been enough discussion of what sort of digital formats would be best for keeping records of committee debates.

clear understanding of the meaning of the bill is, I think, a mistake," he said. "Frankly, more often than not, it would frustrate the will of the legislature because the courts would be driven back to the [statutory] language alone, when the language itself is not always clear. I don't see this as a wise move."

According to an Oct. 5 letter to the cost-cutting task force from Office of Legislative Management financial administrator John Hurnick, some 33,000 pages of hearing transcripts are produced per year. His office proposes to continue producing transcripts of debates of the full House and Senate, at a cost of \$105,000 annually, but eliminating the committee hearings.

Daniel J. Klein, a Hartford appellate lawyer and president of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government, said the diminution of written hearing testimony would make it much more difficult to determine the context and historic purpose of a statute.

"These transcripts are an invaluable tool for statutory interpretation," he said, because they provide the context of what the lawmakers were attempting to accomplish. The proposed substitution of audio tapes would require lawyers to monitor hours of hearings. "My understanding is that there is no pro-



Former state Supreme Court Justice David Borden said judges often used transcripts of legislative hearings to figure out what legislators are trying to achieve when passing a law.

posal of a way to index the audio recordings," he said.

State librarian Wiggin, who is also on the task force, is concerned that not enough thought has gone into the preservation and accessibility of important information. The proposal to store records in an "electronic format" could mean any number of things, he said.

"If we're all concerned about preserving any of this, we need to have some standards and we need to know what we're talking about," he said. Simply making a legislative record digital doesn't make it permanent, Wiggin noted. The task force has not focused on deciding which methods of making digital records would be most practical for the long term, he said.

The state of Connecticut has a valuable resource in its current collection of legislative history, and Wiggin said simply halting transcription to paper and switching to audio might not be wise. "People who are required to file things with us now send us, maybe, a Word document, maybe a PDF, maybe an Excel file. Who knows! Can we at least talk about this before we enact a law that doesn't even define electronic format?" Wiggin asked.

### Blue Volumes

At the beautifully restored state library, adjoining the Connecticut Supreme Court, library technician Laura Klejny showed a visitor the well-preserved bound volumes of committee

hearings, including an Appropriations Committee volume from the late 1800s.

The volumes are kept on metal shelves seven stories tall, and solid glass floors float around them. To reduce fire danger, the rich "wood paneling" is actually metal, carefully painted to fool the eye. Because water would be as disastrous as fire, the stacks lack fire sprinklers.

The volumes from the House floor are bound in blue, the Senate floor debate is bound in red, and the public hearing volumes are gold. And they can be a researcher's gold to a lawyer or judge attempting to discern the meaning and purpose behind a cryptic or ambiguous statute.

Many states don't transcribe public hearings, said Rep. Michael Lawlor, co-chair of the legislative Judiciary Committee. While he is in favor of saving money wisely, he said he's "not thrilled" at the idea of losing written transcripts.

"The role of [legislative] committees is minimized in a lot of different states," Lawlor said. "Very little goes on in committee, and almost everything is formulated by the legislative leaders. That's not the case here. A lot of the back and forth [debate], a lot of the content of these legislative enactments, can be gleaned from reading the public hearing transcript. And I say that because I've done it a million times. It's very typical for us to go back and figure out who said what — not just for political reasons, but also for policy reasons."

Borden, the senior appellate judge and teacher, has just concluded his fall lectures on the statutory interpretation process. He said he tells his students about an electrifying 1992 case called *In re Valerie D.*, where legislative history was critically important. In that case, a mother's parental rights were terminated because of her pre-birth use of cocaine, and the Appellate Court used criminal law theories to conclude the state had special rights to control what pregnant women did with their bodies.

The case infuriated women's groups and civil rights advocates, prompting 66 amicus curiae briefs. Borden wrote for the court, which decided the case based on research of legislative history of two different proposed bills. One bill took a punitive approach. It would make all doctors mandatory reporters of their pregnant patients. In public hearings, representatives of the social sciences testified that the punitive approach would deter pregnant women with abuse problems from seeking needed medical help.

"We used legislative history which came out mostly in committee hearings on another statute, that was about how to deal with the problem of substance-abusing pregnant women. If that material had not been printed, it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to use that information and to make that decision in that way," said Borden. "It was very, very useful."

## ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT LOBBYISTS

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### Testimony of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists

#### Regarding House Bill 6600

#### *An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Paperless Task Force and the Task Force to Study the Reduction of State Agency Paper and Duplicative Procedures*

Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 21, 2011

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and other distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, on behalf of the over 170 members of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists ("ACL"), we thank you for raising House Bill 6600. My name is Brooks Camplon and I currently serve as President of the ACL and I come before you today to respectfully offer a brief history of the Task Force to Study the Conversion of Legislative Documents from Paper to Electronic Form, to provide context for some of the important concepts contained within the bill. It is important to note from the outset that the bill before you today represents a major step in the right direction, thanks to the thoughtful work of all four caucuses in the General Assembly, and the leadership of this committee, to engage in a more thoughtful and deliberate migration to a more paperless General Assembly.

As many of you know from your mixed experiences this session, the planned migration toward a more paperless Connecticut General Assembly has not been as smooth as many would have hoped. Last session, pursuant to Public Act 10-3, you in the General Assembly took a bold step many believed would achieve an important policy goal to reduce the consumption of paper in the production of legislative documents. Specifically, under P.A. 10-3 many of you voted to eliminate the transcription of public hearings and the printing of legislative documents including loose bills and file copies, not just for yourselves, but also for the general public. While the paperless goal, on its face, is a laudable one, in practice, it has the potential to erode the general public's access to transparent, timely and reliable information. It was that overarching concern that prompted legislative leaders to establish the Task Force to Study the Conversion of Legislative Documents from Paper to Electronic Form.

The Task Force met last fall and heard concerns from a diverse group of stakeholders. Many argued that a complete migration toward a paperless General Assembly would have the potential to create obstacles for those persons with behavioral, developmental and/or physical disabilities, as well as for those with limited financial resources and/or



those who lack access to or proficiency with computers. To be frank, we in the lobbying community, who consider ourselves familiar with the legislative process, find the General Assembly's inner workings challenging in terms of accessing information. We believe that a truly paperless process would only exacerbate the barriers to timely access to information that already exist such as inconsistencies in the distribution and posting of substitute language among committees and floor amendments.

Beyond those very real concerns, we in the ACL believe that the General Assembly should not accelerate its paperless efforts at a time when its information technology system, the very bedrock of the paperless effort, has, at times, proven itself unreliable for the general public. As recently as Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the external server to [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov) was offline for several hours in the morning. It's important to note that even though the information technology system is functioning for those of you in the building, the same isn't always true for the outside world. In addition, last August when you in the Senate were debating important amendments to the campaign finance law on the floor, the text of the bill was not available to the public online for over an hour due to a glitch in the external (extranet) server.

We mention these anecdotes not as a criticism of the talented individuals within the Office of Information Technology Services ("OITS"), but to underscore the current lack of technological infrastructure to accommodate escalating demand. You should be encouraged to know that the staff in the OITS has been extremely responsive and accommodating this session as the public has attempted to adapt. Going forward, we hope you will give serious consideration to capital investments in the information technology system including increased server capacity to accommodate outside user demand, improved Wi-Fi connectivity and wiring (i.e. electrical outlets in the L.O.B. and State Capitol), and increased numbers of computers and printers throughout the L.O.B. and State Capitol, to improve the public's electronic access to the Connecticut General Assembly's information system.

In addition to recommending the continued printing of legislative documents, the Task Force uniformly recommended that public hearing transcripts continue to be funded. As this committee is acutely aware, these documents are critical for legislative history and for influencing how the courts and administrative agencies construe statutes. The Task Force heard from several stakeholders from the Offices of the Chief Court Administrator, the Attorney General, the Division of Criminal Justice and the Chief Public Defender, as well as practicing attorneys and librarians, all of which urged that funding for public hearing transcripts be restored.

Thanks to the thoughtful consideration of legislative leaders to the four caucuses and their caucus chiefs, many of the recommendations of the Task Force were adopted and funding was restored for public hearing transcripts and the continued printing of certain legislative documents, including the offset bills that appear outside your hearing room today so the public might be able to follow along. We recognize that sacrifices will need to be made in the future. However, we hope in the very least that the cuts from last session are not reintroduced and further paper reductions are not made at the expense of

the public's access to timely information. For added context, we hope you will take the time to review the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Conversion of Legislative Documents from Paper to Electronic Form for more opportunities for savings including, but not limited to the reduction in the number of statutes printed (reflected in HB 6600, Section 11 (a)) and the utilization of electronic letterhead instead of printed letterhead on bond paper (<http://www.cga.ct.gov/lm/Paperless/info.asp>).

We support the concepts outlined in the bill because we believe they strike an appropriate balance between the need for reduced paper consumption and fiscal restraint, with the public's need for access to timely information in a form that is most appropriate for them. We would appreciate the Committee's clarification of language within Section 2 because of our experience with the Legislative Bill Room this session. As you may or may not be aware, based on last session's paperless directive, the Bill Room is printing bills in an "On Demand" basis. Unfortunately, "On Demand" requests for bills are fulfilled only if the document requested is 15 pages or less. Because the General Assembly eliminated funding for the printing of loose bills, major pieces of legislation like your very own Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes' bill, Senate Bill 1059, which is 393 pages in length, would not be made available to a member of the public who requested it at the Bill Room. Similarly this session's major energy legislation Senate Bill 1, because it is 144 pages in length, or even this bill, House Bill 6600 would not be available upon request. Had funding for loose bills not been eliminated, these documents would have been printed and stocked in the Bill Room for the public's consumption. It is for this reason that we hope that you will consider inserting the word "all" before "printed" on line 35 to make abundantly clear that the Legislative Bill Room is required to make available printed copies of any legislative document, regardless of its size, upon request.

We'd also like to thank you also for your inclusion of the important language in Section 29 that mandates the establishment of standards for the preservation and authentication of electronic documents. The Task Force was charged with studying those concepts but was understandably consumed with trying to find ways to achieve the necessary savings to restore documents and was unable to devote the time necessary to that study.

In closing, we regret having to bring these concerns to your attention at a time when you are faced with so many difficult decisions in light of your unprecedented budget challenges. We thank you for your always-thoughtful consideration.

Mike Johnson  
Association of Connecticut Lobbyists  
Mike@bettygallo.com

Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Hearing  
HB6600 - "An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Legislative  
Paperless Task Force and the Task Force to Study the Reduction of  
State Agency Paper and Duplicative Procedures"  
March 21, 2011

Co-Chair Slossberg, Co-Chair Morin and members of the Government Administration and Elections  
Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of certain provisions in **HB 6600**.

- **Section One** ensures the continuation of processing transcripts efficiently and expediently. The legal community and general public both heavily rely on these transcripts to monitor testimony that was not submitted and to interpret questions and answers exchanged from members of the general assembly.
- **Section Two** acknowledges the necessary availability of hard copies of the House and Senate calendars and journals. These documents invite members of the public to easily monitor the progress made by both chambers during session. These documents would otherwise need to be printed on 8 1/2 X 11 paper from standard laser-jet printers which create an overwhelming cost and demand on both the House and Senate Clerks.
- **Section Three** endorses the cost-saving measure of providing electronic templates for "State of Connecticut" symbols to original bills and LCO documents.
- **Sections Four and Five** embrace the necessity of posting the final version of a bill two days after passage by both the House and Senate. Statutory requirements of printed copies are also met for the Secretary of the State and select legal libraries in the state.
- **Section Seven** amends the costly printing procedures of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. Hard copies of these reports, which are often hundreds of pages long and in-color, should continue to be made available upon request from the PRI Committee Office and the web but not be made available during committee meetings. This will result in significant savings to the Office of Legislative Management.

Thank you very much for considering the support of these concepts. I'm able to answer any questions you may have regarding this testimony.



*Connecticut Chapter*  
645 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Connecticut 06105  
[www.connecticut.sierraclub.org](http://www.connecticut.sierraclub.org)  
Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Government Elections and Administration Committee  
March 7, 2011

Testimony on  
H.B. No. 6600 AA Implementing the Recommendations of the  
Legislative Paperless Task Force and the  
Task Force to Study the Reduction of State Agency Paper and Duplicative Procedures.

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club strongly endorses the campaign to reduce paperwork in state government. Obviously, there are significant environmental benefits to paperwork reduction. For most of us, direct and painfree access to online documents satisfies our needs. However, it is very important that paper records remain available to those of the public who do not have online capability.

Good government requires ready public access to information. As an advocacy organization, the Sierra Club advises that access is important to our mission. The public interest is best served by protecting such access.

We have two suggestions to improve the legislation.

Funding for preparation of public hearing transcripts has been eliminated in the past. These transcripts are an important part of the legislative record. Sierra recommends that this committee takes steps to make sure the hearings are transcribed and made available to the public without charge. In this, we are delighted to join the recommendations made by the CBIA by letter from Kevin Hennessy to the Task Force to Study Converting Legislative Documents From Paper to Electronic Form dated Nov. 18, 2010, and reprinted on page 60 of the task force's report dated Feb. 25, 2011.

Following passage of the underlying legislation, state agency regulations are written, sent to the Regulations Committee because of a 1980 amendment to the state constitution permitting such oversight of the executive by the legislature, and then implemented by the agency. While the legislative record establishes intent, it is the language of the agency regulations themselves which actually have the most direct bearing on the activities in question. Electronic access to current versions these regulations is critically important. We recommend that the committee specify that the regulations of every state agency be easily accessible online.



DENISE MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

**GAE Committee  
Public Hearing Testimony  
March 21, 2011**

- Good Morning Chairman Morin, Chairman Slossberg and members of the committee. For the record my name is James Spallone and I am Deputy Secretary of the State.
- I am here today to testify on behalf of Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, who could not be here today.
- I would like to briefly address two bills before the committee this morning. SB944
- Raised Bill 6600, "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PAPERLESS TASK FORCE AND THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE REDUCTION OF STATE AGENCY PAPER AND DUPLICATIVE PROCEDURES." This bill impacts our office.

- Also, House Bill 944, “AN ACT CONCERNING COST SAVING MEASURES WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE”
- Specifically, this bill would repeal the requirements that the Secretary of the State certify the amount and purpose of each appropriation made by the General Assembly, distribute printed copies of certain public acts and distribute printed volumes of bills.
- State law now requires the Secretary of the State’s office to bind and distribute copies of every favorably-reported committee bill to the State Library, the Library of Congress, and five other law and general university libraries.
- We discussed this with the seven depository libraries, and believe an authentic and preserved print record of these important legislative documents should be maintained.
- We also believe the distribution can be reduced from seven libraries to two, in order to reduce paper waste.
- Specifically, we support continued distribution of the print file copies to the State Library and the UConn Law School library, as recommended by the legislative documents task force.
- Therefore, we support section five (5) of Raised Bill 6600, which reflects the recommended reduction, and would support amending section one of Raised Bill 944 to reduce rather than eliminate the depository library distribution.

- Our testimony on this matter is consistent with our previous testimony regarding raised bill 1059, section 256.
- I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee
- Thank you

**H – 1105**

**CONNECTICUT  
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**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL.54  
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roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted the machine will be locked. Would the Clerk please take a tally. And would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5526 as amended by House "A."

Total Number voting 139

Necessary for adoption 70

Those voting Yea 117

Those voting Nay 22

Those absent and not voting 12

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The bill as amended is passed.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 341.

THE CLERK:

On page 17, Calendar 341, Substitute for  
House Bill Number 6600, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PAPERLESS  
TASK FORCE AND THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE  
REDUCTION OF STATE AGENCY PAPER AND DUPLICATIVE  
PROCEDURES, favorable report by the Committee  
on Government Administration and Elections.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

That may be the record for the longest  
title of the session, sir.

Representative Morin of the 28th, you have  
the floor, sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good evening.

I move for 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, sir.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 6992. I  
would ask the Clerk to please call the

cd/rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

361  
May 25, 2011

amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the Clerk please call LCO 6992, which shall be designated House Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 6992, House "A," offered by Representative Morin.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The good Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Seeing no objection to summarization, please proceed, Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This is strictly a cleanup amendment. It addresses a few technical changes in lines 135, 142, 1 -- 534 and 542.

It also, on line 7 -- actually in the amendment, it addresses some concerns that were brought to the committee about access for all people to get documents that may not have the access to electronic, you know, whether they be

computers or such.

So this was brought to us after we went through the committee process and it was, frankly, supported by all members of the GAE Committee.

I appreciate the time, Mr. Speaker. Move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House "A."

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

You have the floor.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Some questions to the chairman of GAE, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Just some technical questions. When it comes to looking at printed copies of legislative record index, what are the numbers

and when would it be required to be provided?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. Is this directed for the amendment or the bill?

REP. WIDLITZ (98th):

I'm sorry. Not for the amendment. For the bill. I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on House "A?"

Representative Hwang, your query is in regard to the base bill.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Yes. I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Okay. We'll get you.

Further on House "A?" Further on House "A?" If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed?

Pitched a shutout. The amendment is  
adopted.

Further on the bill as amended? Further  
on the bill as amended? Representative O'Brien  
of the 24th District, you have the floor, sir,  
from the hardware city.

REP. O'BRIEN (24th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 6638. I  
would ask that the amendment be called and I be  
given leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Would the Clerk please call LCO 6638,  
which shall be designated House Amendment  
Schedule "B."

THE CLERK:

LCO 6638, House "B," offered by  
Representative O'Brien.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The good Representative seeks leave of the  
Chamber to summarize the amendment. Seeing no  
objection to such, please proceed, sir.

REP. O'BRIEN (24th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment is very technical. It just sets back the effective date of Sections 18 and 19 of the bill concerning the Legislative Regulations Review Committee to allow the committee to allow agencies to have more time to prepare to submit their proposals online -- electronically, excuse me.

I would move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House "B." Further on House "B?"

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I view this as a friendly amendment and I urge my colleagues to support it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Further on House "B?" Further on House "B?" If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Opposed.

House "B" is adopted.

Further on the bill as amended by House  
"A" and House "B?"

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This bill as amended is a recommendation of the legislative paper task force -- paperless task force and the task force is starting the reduction of state agency paper and duplicative procedures. These committees met for a 10 or 11-month period. They were put in place last session and did a terrific amount of work.

I specifically wanted to recognize the House Minority Leader Representative Cafero, my good friend Representative Sandy Nafis and Senator Beth Bye for their hard work in coming up with these recommendations. It was truly a bipartisan effect.

And really, you know, a brief history, those of us that have been around for a while, being a former state employee, when we started going with the computer systems and



everyone thought that we were going to eliminate the use of paper and we thought we could get things done. And the more I found out -- actually produced more paper and more paper and more paper. And we seem to have produced it here.

And the work that was done here is going to put the tools in place for us to really look at what we're spending, how much better we're producing, how much is actually going out to people. And it actually, we feel that it's going to save, not only environmentally, the use of the paper, but it's also going to save money down the road. And I strongly urge adoption of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Morin.

Representative Hwang, on the bill as amended by House "A" and House "B."

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now it's the right time. Right?

I also want to echo the chairman's thanks

to Representative Nafis and Senate --  
Representative Cafero for their wonderful work.  
And I think the critical aspect of how we  
approach this was cost savings in an  
economically difficult situation.

I would ask some questions of the  
proponent of this bill.

(Deputy Speaker Kirkley-Bey in the Chair.)

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Please prepare yourself, Representative  
Morin.

Please proceed, Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you.

How would you -- what would be the new  
number of copies of legislative record index?  
And would you require it to be transmitted  
electronically?

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

There would be no more than 25 printed copies produced and it must be made available through electronic means.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Calendars, journals: they're an important part of communications with the public and with the lobbyists. What is the procedure for their printing?

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Morin.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Through you, ma'am.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

I believe, to the fine colleague, the number of printed copies produced and distributed have to be determined by the joint committee on legislative management.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, ma'am.

And through you, ma'am, bills and amendments, would they be as current, be on members' desks? Would this change alter that?

Through you, madam.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Give me one second, please.

Excuse me. Through you, Madam Speaker, is it bills as amended? Or bills in general? I'm sorry. Maybe I didn't hear properly.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Bills and amendments.

Through you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Yes. I know it for bills, especially, they have to be available on the legislator's website at least two legislative days prior to

passage. Of course it does maintain the existing laws' exception to emergencies and certified bills, emergency certified bills.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Are there provisos for the state library to be able to share this information with our high schools and educational organizations throughout the state?

Through you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Yes. As a matter of fact, yes. Through you, Madam Speaker, absolutely. So it requires the state library, I believe by -- I believe it's January 1st of 2012, to --

Pardon me. I want to make sure.

Yes, the committee on legislative management will determine the number of copies

that the library needs to prepare to be sent out. That's a better answer.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, ma'am.

Through you, in regards to the Department of Administrative Services, are there components in there to push them along in the process of looking at savings through paperless initiatives?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, indeed. Frankly, it takes, you know, it's going to ask all of our executive branches to convert their applications and forms that are used by the public to electronic format and, you know, create an inventory of the forms.

It will require them to use e-mail to

notify and correspond with clients whenever possible and permitted by law. And it does require agencies to send their proposed regulations to the Regulations Review Committee electronically rather than sending 18 paper copies as currently done, as current law requires.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In regards to the distribution of materials to the judicial department, are there processes in place such as reports and legislative summaries?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

At this time I believe they are working on that specific aspect of it. I don't have a definitive answer at this time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

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Representative Hwang.

REP. HWANG (134th):

Thank you, ma'am.

I believe it's important to recognize the hard work of the committee from the executive committee to study the paperless transition as well as the legislative committee to do this. I would encourage adoption of this bill in the context that it is one small step that we can take in government to reduce cost.

And I applaud the work of all the members within their legislative committees and to the chairman.

Thank you, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Thank you, sir.

Representative Urban, you have the floor, ma'am.

Representative Morin.

REP. MORIN (28th):

No. I just urge passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Will staff and guests please come to the well. Members take your seats. The machine



will be open and we will begin the vote.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by  
roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House  
is taking a roll call vote. Members to the  
Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Will all members please check the machine.  
Please check the board to make sure your vote  
has been properly cast. Will all members  
please check the board to see your vote has  
been properly cast. The machine will be locked  
and the Clerk will prepare the tally. The  
Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6600 as amended by House "A"  
and "B."

Total Number voting	134
Necessary for adoption	68
Those voting Yea	134
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	17

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The bill as amended passes.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

**VOL. 54  
PART 21  
6546-6914**

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SENATE

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June 7, 2011

Moving now to calendar page 22, Calendar 563,  
House Bill Number 6600.

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

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing calendar page 22, Calendar 564,  
House Bill Number 6598.

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

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

An additional item on calendar page 22:  
Calendar 566, House Bill Number 5585.

Move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed...

THE CHAIR:

I would ask the Chamber to be quiet please so we can hear the call of the Calendar for the Consent Calendar.

Thank you.

Please proceed, Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on calendar page 5, Calendar 336, House Bill 5697.

Calendar page 7, Calendar 421, Substitute for House Bill 6126.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 449, Senate Bill 1149.

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Calendar page 10, Calendar 470, Substitute for House Bill 5340. Calendar 474, Substitute for House Bill 6274. Calendar 476, House Bill 6635.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 499, Substitute for House Bill 6638. Calendar 500, House Bill 6614. Calendar 508, House Bill 6222.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 511, House Bill 6356. Calendar 512, Substitute for House Bill 6422. Calendar 514, House Bill 6590. Calendar 515, House Bill 6221. Calendar 516, House Bill 6455.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 517, House Bill 6350. Calendar 519, House Bill 5437. Calendar 522, House Bill 6303.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 523, Substitute for House Bill 6499. Calendar 524, House Bill 6490. Calendar 525, House Bill 5780. Calendar 526, House Bill 6513. Calendar 527, Substitute for House Bill 6532.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 528, House Bill 6561. Calendar 529, Substitute for House Bill 6312. Calendar 530, Substitute for House Bill 5032. Calendar 532, House Bill 6338.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, Substitute for House Bill 6325. Calendar 534, House Bill 6352.

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Calendar 536, House Bill 5300. Calendar 537, House  
Bill 5482.

calendar page 18, Calendar 543, House Bill 6508.

Calendar 544, House Bill 6412. Calendar 546,  
Substitute for House Bill 6538. Calendar 547,  
Substitute for House Bill 6440. Calendar 548,  
Substitute for House Bill 6471.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 550, Substitute for  
House Bill 5802. Calendar 551, House Bill 6433.  
Calendar 552, House Bill 6413. Calendar 553,  
Substitute for House Bill 6227.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 554, Substitute for  
House Bill 5415. Calendar 557, Substitute for House  
Bill 6318. Calendar 558, Substitute for House Bill  
6565.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 559, Substitute for  
House Bill 6636.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 563, Substitute for  
House Bill 6600. Calendar 564, Substitute for House  
Bill 6598. Calendar 566, House Bill 5585.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 568, Substitute for  
House Bill 6103. Calendar 570, Substitute for House  
Bill 6336. Calendar 573, Substitute for House Bill  
6434.

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Calendar page 24, Calendar 577, Substitute for  
House Bill 5795.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 581, House Bill  
6354.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 596, Substitute for  
House Bill 6282. Calendar 598, Substitute for House  
Bill 6629.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 600, House Bill  
6314. Calendar 601, Substitute for House Bill 6529.  
Calendar 602, Substitute for House Bill 6438.  
Calendar 604, Substitute for House Bill 6639.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 605, Substitute for  
House Bill 6526. Calendar 608, House Bill 6284.

Calendar page 30, Calendar number 615,  
Substitute for House Bill 6485. Calendar 616,  
Substitute for House Bill 6498.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 619, Substitute for  
House Bill 6634. Calendar 627, Substitute for House  
Bill 6596.

Calendar page 32, Calendar 629, House Bill  
5634. Calendar 630, Substitute for House Bill 6631.  
Calendar 631, Substitute for House Bill 6357.  
Calendar 632, House Bill 6642.

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Calendar page 33, Calendar 634, Substitute for  
House Bill 5431. Calendar 636, Substitute for  
House, correction, House Bill 6100.

Page 34, Calendar 638, Substitute for House  
Bill 6525.

Calendar page 48, Calendar 399, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1043.

Calendar page 49, Calendar 409, Substitute for  
House Bill 6233. Calendar 412, House Bill 5178.  
Calendar 422, Substitute for House Bill 6448.

Calendar page 52, Calendar 521, Substitute for  
House Bill 6113.

Madam President, that completes the item placed  
on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

We call for another roll call vote. And the  
machine will be open for Consent Calendar number 1.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll on the Consent  
Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the  
Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll on the  
Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.



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Senator Cassano, would you vote, please, sir.

Thank you.

Well, all members have voted. All members have voted. The machine will be closed, and Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally?

THE CLERK:

Motion is on option Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

We might stand at ease for just a moment as we prepare the next item..

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)