

PA 11-025

SB0851

House	3502-3505	4
Human Services	12, 20, 180-182, 228, 233	7
<u>Senate</u>	<u>825-826, 889-891</u>	<u>5</u>
		16

H – 1102

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
PART 11
3438 – 3771**

lxe/law/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

236
May 18, 2011

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on this bill? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members please take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. And Mr. Clerk, if you'd kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6352.	
Total Number voting	142
Necessary for adoption	72
Those voting Yea	142
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	9

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill is passed.

Mr. Clerk, please call 396.

THE CLERK:

On page 22, calendar 396, Senate Bill number 851,

lxe/law/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

237
May 18, 2011

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS'
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HUMAN
SERVICES STATUTES. Favorable report of the committee
on human services.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The gentleman from Norwalk, Representative
Morris.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good afternoon.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

I move for acceptance of the joint committees
favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will
you explain the bill please, sir.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

This bill makes technical changes in the human
services statutes. It also makes a technical change
clarifying that the Commissioner of Public Health
determines where a medical home pilot program takes
place and can solicit federal and private funds for
the program. I move for passage of the bill and

lxe/law/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

238
May 18, 2011

encourage my colleagues to support.

SPEAKER DONOVAN;

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the bill.

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In preparation for what I was supposed to say and in response to this bill I looked through it and thank goodness it is technical in nature because I can't begin to understand exactly what every line says. But it is technical.

There's just a couple words that are changed and yes it does move the -- the citing of these medical homes to the Commissioner of Public Health. We discussed this in committee. In fact it was one of the first human service bills we passed out in February and I urge my colleagues to accept it. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Ma'am. Remark further on the bill. Will you remark further on the bill. If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members
voted? If so, the machine will be locked. And Mr.
Clerk, if you'd kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 851 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number voting	140
Necessary for adoption	71
Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	11

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill is passed in concurrence.

Mr. Clerk, will you kindly call calendar 251.

THE CLERK:

On page 43, calendar 251 substitute for House
Bill number 6226, AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS REPORTING OF
CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY. Favorable report of
the committee on human services.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Urban.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**HUMAN
SERVICES
PART 1
1 – 314**

**2011
INDEX**

REP. TERCYAK: It was good to see you again.

And next, from the Department of Social Services, we've got Claudette Beaulieu.

Good morning, Claudette. It's good to see you here.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CLAUDETTE BEAULIEU: Good morning, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Human Services Committee. I'm Claudette Beaulieu. I'm the Deputy Commissioner for Programs at the Department of Social Services.

HB5432
HB5558
HB6218 HB5427
SB103 HB5560
HB5561 SB9
SB128 SB851
HB5136

I am here this morning to present testimony on several bills introduced by your committee. Those bills will affect the Department. You have a copy of my testimony in front of you. I will try to be brief and summarize.

First bill is Senate Bill 840, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOBS FIRST PROGRAM. This legislation would create an additional category of a -- ability to qualify for six-month extensions of temporary family assistance benefits in order to continue in an approved work activity.

Currently, we have six-month extensions that are granted to people under the following circumstances. They are at risk from domestic violence or physical harm to the -- the -- the adult or the children in the household. The adult has two or more substantiated barriers to employment. The adult is working, but earning less than the family's Temporary Family Assistance payment. Under those circumstances, families can get a six-month extension.

they can change their -- their plan, or reflect any changes in income that they might have in terms of -- continued ConnPACE eligibility.

Lastly, I just want to speak in support of the LCO's Tech Revisers' bill, Senate Bill 851. We obviously support that, and we would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

REP. TERCYAK: Thank you very much.

Do we have -- okay, Representative Chapin, please.

REP. CHAPIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CLAUDETTE BEAULIEU: Good morning.

REP. CHAPIN: On Senate Bill 128, is it the federal government or state government that sets the Medicare Part D enrollment period?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CLAUDETTE BEAULIEU: The federal government sets the Medicare Part D enrollment period.

REP. CHAPIN: And we -- did you say we recently changed the ConnPACE enrollment period --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CLAUDETTE BEAULIEU: To mirror that.

REP. CHAPIN: -- by statute?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CLAUDETTE BEAULIEU: Yes.

REP. CHAPIN: Well, let me add to that few number of people who have complained because I have a very active senior center, including the

T10¹/₂

Testimony submitted February 10, 2011

Jobs First Program

CGA HB-5558 and SB-851

George Brusznicki
Director of Education, Training, and Employment
Community Renewal Team, Inc., Hartford, CT

Good morning Chairman Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is George Brusznicki, and I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 5558 and Senate Bill 851, which would allow recipients of benefits under the TANF Jobs First program to use a greater percentage of their time for education. This is extremely important because strengthening an individual's education before entering the workforce has a direct effect on increasing their chances for success in the workplace and of achieving long-term self-sufficiency. The end result of this is a benefit to the entire community.

I have been the Director of Education, Training, and Employment at Community Renewal Team, Inc. for the past seven years. My résumé also includes being the Executive Director of a regional Workforce Board for more than 10 years, working as an Adult Education Consultant, Executive Director of a Chamber of Commerce, Educator and Coordinator for Adult Education Services with the State's Vocational Education System under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. In whole, my 30 years of experience in education and training well qualifies me to speak before you today on behalf of House Bill 5558 and Senate Bill 851.

Since the enactment of "Welfare Reform" in 1996, states have been continually challenged to meet participation rates of TANF customers. As we all know, education and literacy are critical to an individual's future economic success. More important is that fundamental basic skills in

math and English are essential to an individual enrolled in the Job First program, so as to allow them to move out of poverty. This is the mission of CRT and that of other agencies in the State.

Indeed, work participation is at the core of Welfare Reform and the Jobs First Program. During the first years of the implementation of Welfare Reform, I was a strong proponent of mixing education, training and work for Jobs First customers. The argument was always a simple one — we can place people directly into the workplace, but for those without high school diplomas, we would be limiting their future possibility of moving out of poverty if we did not allow them to pursue their education. It is more important than ever that we shift from a work-first approach to long-term poverty reduction strategies and stable employment – which requires an educated workforce.

House Bill 5558 and Senate Bill 851 will create a unique opportunity to meet federal requirements while also serving to move people out of poverty. Moreover, I have learned during my career that if a mother is literate, her child will also benefit in terms of educational achievement. This is a much-needed byproduct in our city, where the dropout rate remains high, and literacy rates remain low.

There are many institutions explicitly named in House Bill 5558, through which educational services can be provided to those in the Jobs First program. However, I want to point out that this is not a comprehensive list. In fact, there are other institutions which are *better* able to provide education programs to non-traditional students, who may not be ready for such classroom-based services. Working with this particular population over the years has taught me a lot. An anecdote to share with you: I once witnessed a participant abruptly leave an adult education class. While he was leaving, he said, “Now I remember why I dropped out of school.” This reminds us that we must prepare students for learning before they enroll in our current educational system – or we must offer them some genuinely flexible alternatives – so that they do not fail again.

Our agency has been funded by the Workforce Alliance of New Haven, CT for the past five years to provide training services to TANF clients. We have run an extremely successful program. This success is a direct result of partnering with adult education, community colleges

and the Chamber of Commerce, along with the workplaces where they get real-world experience. The additional six months of education described in this bill would allow participants to make even greater gains in terms of literacy and long-term self-sufficiency.

These bills are most timely and necessary. However, during difficult economic times, funding of such activities has been a central challenge to the Jobs First Program. We can begin to coordinate resources at the state and community level. As you may know, adult education in Connecticut is funded via a match process. As an example, a community allocates \$1 million, and in turn, the state matches the municipality with an additional \$900,000. As a result, the community has \$1.9 million to provide ESL, ABE, GED and citizenship classes. But it's possible to leverage still more funding for this important function. The Department of Social Services, under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), overseen by the Federal Department of Agriculture, can access a 50-50 federal match for training services, whereby state and local funds can be matched to underwrite training and education services. By expanding eligibility to all TANF participants – not just those who receive food stamps – and establishing a procurement process for a consortium of community providers, the education and training options will be extended still further.

Lastly, this endeavor must be integrated at the community level with Community Action Agencies, the Departments of Education and Higher Education, and the local workforce boards if it is to be a true success.

We strongly encourage you to pass this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Community Renewal Team, Inc.

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T2



Testimony before the Human Services Committee

Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner for Programs

February 10, 2011

Good morning, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and Members of the Human Services Committee. I am Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner for Programs at the Department of Social Services. I am here this morning to present testimony on several bills introduced by your committee that have impact on the department.

HB 5558
HB 6218
HB 5427
HB 5560
HB 5561
SB 9
SB 103 SB 128
SB 851

S.B. No. 840 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOBS FIRST PROGRAM.

This legislation would create an additional option for Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) clients to receive a six-month extension of TFA benefits in order to continue an approved work activity. This option would extend to a TFA-eligible adult who is enrolled in an adult basic education, vocational education and/or subsidized employment activity.

We currently provide six-month extensions in the following circumstances:

- domestic violence or physical harm to the family's children
- the adult has 2 or more substantiated barriers to employment
- the adult is working but earning less than the family's Temporary Family Assistance payment standard

This new legislation cannot be supported at this time because it will increase state expenditures for the additional six-months in the following state funding areas – TFA, Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) special benefits, JFES vocational education and/or subsidized employment, and child care assistance.

Proposed H.B. No. 5432 AN ACT CONCERNING LIMITS ON SANCTIONS UNDER THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM.

HB 5432 proposes to eliminate the termination of TFA benefits to the family if only one family member is in non-compliance with program rules and seeks a review by DSS before withholding occurs.

enrollment period easier for the elderly population, as they have one single enrollment period for both programs.

S.B. No. 851 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES.

The provisions of the bill are purely technical and supported by the department.

As you know, the Governor proposed moving the program to an ASO model therefore we do not feel that the changes proposed in section 13 will be necessary in the new environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

S - 614

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL. 54
PART 3
689 - 1039**

mb/rgd/gbr
SENATE

48
April 27, 2011

Madam President, I believe the next item is on the bottom of page 2, Calendar Number 43, Senate Bill Number 851, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES, favorable report of the Human Services Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I would move the joint committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Acting on approval of the bill, will you remark further?

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Madam President. It's very -- just technical changes to the statutes that are already in place. It clarifies some things, changes several commas, "whose" to "whichs" and "whoms," and deletes things. It is not substantive in any way. There is certainly no fiscal impact to the state. And other than that I'd be happy to answer questions.

THE CHAIR:

Will you -- acting on approval of the bill, will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, a roll call vote will be ordered.

Will you remark further? No.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, if there is no objection in no additional comment, would move to place this item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the next item on calendar page 3, Calendar Number 46, Substitute for Senate Bill number 849, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE

COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS AND MINOR CHANGES TO THE INSURANCE AND RELATED STATUTES, favorable report of the Insurance Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move for acceptance of the joint committee's

mb/rgd/gbr
SENATE

112
April 27, 2011

Madam President, according to the Clerk's record on page 2, on the second consent calendar, Calendar Number 43, Senate Bill Number 851; on page 3, Calendar Number 46, Senate Bill -- Substitute for Senate Bill Number 849; on page 4, Calendar Number 65, Senate Bill Number 889; on page 7, Calendar Number 106, Senate Bill Number 933; on page 8, top of the page, Calendar 118, Senate Bill Number 885; on page 9, Calendar 131, Senate Bill Number 861; on page 10, Calendar Number 153; and also on page 10, Calendar Number 160, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 1109. SB 911

That completes the items placed on the second consent calendar according to my record.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. We have one more --

THE CLERK:

Madam President, on the top page 11, Calendar Number 162, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 1076.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

Would you please call -- announce a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in

mb/rgd/gbr
SENATE

113
April 27, 2011

the Senate on the second consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on the second consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could you announce it one more time please?

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting on the second consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is voting on the second consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Everybody has voted. All members have voted. The machine will be locked. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the result of the vote on the second consent under is:

Total Number voting	34
Necessary for adoption	18
Those voting Yea	34

mb/rgd/gbr
SENATE

114
April 27, 2011

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar is adopted.

Senator Looney, please.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. For purposes of a clarification.

Madam President, on calendar page 11, Calendar 162, Senate Bill 1076 was not an item that I had announced for the consent calendar. I'm told that it may have been listed on the consent calendar, but it should not have been. So I just want to make sure that is deleted.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir, and it was not listed on the machine, sir. Thank you.

At this time, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, the Clerk is now in possession of Senate Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.