

PA 11-070

SB0858

House	9255-9258, 9289-9290	6
<u>Senate</u>	<u>4752-4767, 4945-4949</u>	<u>21</u>
		27

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

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the numbers. I don't see 852 up there, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

I think it's the second row there.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Oh, there it is. I got it. There it is.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

It looks like we have a match, okay.

We will now move on to -- return to the call of the Calendar, and I'd like to call on Calendar 592.

Again, will the Clerk please call Calendar 592?

THE CLERK:

On page 32, Calendar 592, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 858, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES, favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Willis, good morning.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the joint favorable report in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance of Committee's favorable report and passage of bill in concurrence with Senate. Will you please remark?

REP. WILLIS (64th):

This bill is concerning the -- a planning commission for higher education ensuring the implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment. Where's the amendment number? Oh, LCO 6867. I ask leave of the Chamber so I may -- no? 6560.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Clerk, please call LCO 6560 which is designated as Senate "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6560, Senate "A" offer by Senator Baram and Representative Willis.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Any objection? Representative, you may proceed.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Thank you. This amendment eliminates the requirement on a grant program for veterinarians in the state of Connecticut. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Care to remark further? Care to remark further. Move adoption? Care to remark further? If not, let me

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try your minds. Those in favor, please signify by saying
Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is
adopted. Remark further, Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

Yes, thank you, I have another amendment. LCO 6867.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Clerk, please call LCO 6867, designated Amendment
"B", Senate Amendment "B". Representative, I'm sure you
seek leave to summarize. Any objection?

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6867, Senate "B" offered by Senator
Baram and Representative Willis.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Any objection to summarization? Representative
Willis, you may proceed.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

This just renames Blue Ribbon Commission to a
Planning Commission for higher education. I move -- move
adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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The question is on adoption. Remark further? If not, let me try your minds. Those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS (64th):

I move to consent.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Motion to move this one to Consent Calendar. Any objection? Hearing none, the bill is moved to Consent Calendar.

Will clerk please call Calendar 620.

THE CLERK:

On page 37, Calendar 620, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 1003, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY, favorable report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Berger.

REP. BERGER (73rd):

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THE CLERK:

What page is it on?

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Clerk, please call Calendar 592 which is the
beginning of the Consent Calendar.

SB 863 SB 1201

SB 852 SB 888

SB 377 SB 1216

SB 1003 SB 371

THE CLERK:

On page 32, Calendar 592, Substitute for Senate Bill
Number 858, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER
EDUCATION STATUTES.

SB 1112

SB 881 SB 1076

SB 518 SB 1098

A VOICE:

Mr. Speaker, this represents the Consent Calendar,
and I would move that we vote on it as such.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

There's a Consent Calendar. Staff and guests,
please come to the well of the House. Members take their
seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

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

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members
voted? Please check the roll call board. Make sure your
vote's been properly cast. If all the members have voted,

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the machine will be locked. The clerk will please take a tally. Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar:

Total number voting 139

Necessary for passage 70

Those voting Yea 139

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 12

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Consent Calendar's passed.

Any announcements or introductions?

Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (78th):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. For a general rotation.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. PISCOPO (78th):

Will the general please notes that Representatives Kokoruda and Noujaim missed votes ue to you illness in the family. Representative Rigby missed votes due to business in the district. Will the transcript please note that Representatives Candelora, Wood and Williams

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THE CLERK:

Mr. President, calling from page 33, Calendar Number 165, Bill Number 923, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY AND COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS. The clerk is in possession of amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco -- Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, I believe that's the item we just concluded. And Mr. President, if we might return to an item from the Committee on Higher Education that had been passed temporarily earlier on and that is, Mr. President, Calendar page 5, Calendar 221, Senate Bill 858.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Can we take conversations outside, please?

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Mr. President, calling from Calendar page 5, Calendar 221, substitute for Senate Bill Number 858, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES. Favorable Report of the Committee on Higher

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Education. And the clerk has amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

This bill will have two amendments offered with it. I'll describe the underlying bill and then as I call the amendments I will describe those.

Senate Bill 858, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES, in its original form was addressing a couple of issues. One, around the Kirklyn M. Kerr Grant Program to veterinary students and a pay back of the tuition remission that they receive. And the second part is to rename the University of Connecticut branches as campuses throughout the statutes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And now if I may call LCO 6560, the clerk is in

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possession of that amendment and I move adoption of that amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Make sure we have it.

SENATOR BYE:

LCO 6560.

THE CLERK:

LCO 6560, which will be designated Senate.

Amendment Schedule "A" is offered by Senator Bye of the 5th District.

SENATOR BYE:

I move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes. What this is a -- a fairly simple amendment, it strikes lines 3 to 56 in the original underlying bill and simply says that the Commissioner of Higher Education shall establish and administer the Kirklyn M. Kerr Veterinary Program to support those students -- 5 students per year at Iowa State University for a 4 year period. And it strikes the

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payback language and gets rid of -- with that gets rid of Higher Education's responsibility for that portion of the bill, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark on the amendment, will you remark on the amendment? If not I'll try your minds, all those in favor please signify by saying, aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

The clerk is in possession of a second amendment, LCO 6867. I move adoption of that amendment.

THE CHAIR: `

Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR BYE: 6867.

THE CLERK:

LCO 6867 which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule "B" it is offered by Senator Bye of

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the 5th District.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

This is a more complex amendment and I'm going to take my time going through several sections of it.

What -- this amendment does several things. The first thing it does is it sets up a -- I have to get to my notes, excuse me. It sets up a strategic planning process and a planning commission for Higher Education Connecticut. And it is a very thorough process and I'd like to thank my cochair, Representative Willis for her work on this. One of the concerns with our consolidation of Higher Education -- and also one of the things that consolidation was trying to address --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye, can you hang on please?

Please move the conversations outside the

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Chamber.

Thank you, Senator Bye. I cannot hear, thank you. Pleased proceed.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

That we have a strategic approach to higher education in Connecticut that brings in all the universities and colleges, private, public -- and this strategic plan attempts to do that. It has legislative appointments to the strategic planning commission, they appoint former administrators or facilities from independent colleges, CSU, Charter Oak State Colleges, the Strategic Planning Commission will also have representatives from various industries, arts and culture, science and technology, from non-profit foundations and philanthropy who represent our state from geographic location, social economic status and race and ethnicity. In addition the Commissioners of Higher Ed, DECD, the President of the Constituent Units -- I should say of the colleges and the independent colleges and the Office of Work Force Development will sit on this Planning Commission ex-officio. This strategic planning is long overdue and this amendment outlines how that will proceed and how

they will report back to the Legislature.

The second part of this amendment is a technical change that allows CHFA to apply for certain types of bond funding on behalf of Connecticut's Higher Education and hospitals and other state institutions who they work with.

And the third part of this amendment is something that I think is also very important to see how we're doing with our Higher Education system. It assigns unique identifiers to each student as they enter our 2 and 4 year and certificate programs and colleges. And that number will be a number that the students had when they were in elementary and high school and so as we're looking at some of the problems with students arriving at college who aren't prepared or students having trouble to transfer among and between the different units, we'll be able to track students now. And so if the student started at Capital Community College and ended up graduating from UConn we now don't register that student as a success but as a drop out. This will help us follow students through the university systems and colleges and see how they're doing. It will allow us to track how we're investing our financial aid dollars. And which students are

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making it and which are not. And where are the students coming from who are not prepared for college. So we see this as a really important addition to the data that we can use as legislators to inform our policy and invest our dollars to get the most graduations possible to have the most successes for students. So that summarizes the second amendment, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, this is indeed an ambitious -- very ambitious amendment. It tries to do quite a bit -- certainly a strategic plan is in order and should have been probably in existence for some time but at least now it gets the process going. A couple of clarifications and by the way we do surly support the continuation of unique identifiers. I think it's so important to be able to track students from their education -- lower educational system on forward as well. But a couple of just clarification points in

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this particular amendment.

In the beginning of the section in line number 6, the Planning Commission for Higher Education is to develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic plan. The question, if I could please to our esteemed chairman of higher ed, when they use the word ensure, what is anticipated, through you, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, that is an excellent question, Senator Boucher. And I believe this language is strong because multiple times the Higher Education Committee has passes strategic planning bills and for assorted reasons we have not embarked on an ambitious strategic plan for higher education. And a state that relies on our highly educated workforce to sell ourselves if you will, around the country, as a good place to do business, so this is a problem. So this Commission is charged with ensuring the implementation of that strategic master plan. I just see it as stronger language that the Commission not only does a plan but then has a responsibility of following up and ensuring that as a state we are

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moving forward with that plan, through you, Mr.
President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

In addition, in lines 89 through 97 there
establishes numerical goals for 2015 and 2012 to --
among so many things, to increase the number of people
earning Bachelor's Degrees and so on and so forth.
Through you, the thinking behind the establishment of
numerical goals versus percentages, through you, Mr.
President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, I would anticipate
that some of those numerical goals would be
percentages Senator Boucher. What this is attempting
to do is saying, we really need to make data based
decisions and we need not to have the Strategic
Planning Commission simply say, make broad
recommendations to us. We're really looking for them
to set goals that we can measure our systems by. And

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so these are very resin to set specific goals that we can meet and even to look at models of applying incentives to funding as well, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And lastly one of the more attractive parts of this amendment, I find is in the area of reporting expenditures appropriations on a yearly basis -- a certain level of transparency that I think many of us in this General Assembly would appreciate particularly getting those kinds of -- of that kind of data to help us. So if there's any comments to be made on that -- the rationale behind it and what the expectation is, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, if I could ask Senator Boucher to rephrase? I was listening as if she was summing up and not preparing for the question,

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through you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Yes, through you, Mr. President --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

-- the portion of this amendment that examines and recommends changes to funding policies and practices through the reporting of expenditures and appropriations, the rationale of -- for placing that in this particular (inaudible), through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, as a new co-chair of the Higher Education Committee it's become pretty clear to me and -- and Senator Boucher has helped in my education here, that once the state moves to block grants with our Higher Education system it became more difficult to track how the funding was moving and exactly how it was being paid. And certainly this year and in our implementation we're looking for ways to get our hands around that. And anyone who's be

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involved with the extensive strategic planning process knows it's a lot of hours in a room reading about the strengths and weaknesses of the system and will be looking at smaller systems and larger systems with the strategic plan. And so certainly a part of those discussions will be around the transparency and funding. And we are looking for this group of business leaders and retired administrators and faculty -- retired faculty and presidents of colleges to help us as a state get our hands around having more transparency in how are colleges are reporting their funding.

It's a -- it's a very -- higher education has a very -- very complex funding system. I've worked in the administration of colleges and attended those monthly meetings around how things were going and you have about 11 moving parts. And when you have so many moving parts it's also easy to be not transparent because it is so complex. So we're hoping that the expertise of the people on this panel will help our body with those questions. And help us improve our system of accountability from our colleges. And I'm looking forward -- the first report back is due in January 2010, and I think I, as a chair of higher

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education am really looking forward to these reports because we're putting all of our best minds on many of what -- these are very complex problems but incredibly important problems for our state to solve so we can make the most out of the opportunities of our higher education programs offer, through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, that concludes my questions but I do want to commend the crafters of this particular amendment on that section, particularly because we are going to be consolidating the entire area of higher education and possible thereby losing some of that transparency as the operation gets larger. So this becomes a more critical component and I found that when required to analyze and disseminate this information on the part of the individual constituent unit, it forces them to look within themselves as well and provides them with either greater information and sometimes highlights some positives and also some areas that need improvement.

So on that point I certainly support the

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amendment and hope everyone will vote in favor as well. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, I'll try our minds, all those in favor please signify by saying, aye?

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

All those opposed? The ayes, have it; the amendment is adopted.

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Mr. President, I see this bill now in its entirety as a very important piece of what is our higher ed consolidation because this Strategic Planning Bill will help the whole -- will help the whole process of that consolidation. And will bring some of the best minds into the room.

And I thank Senator Boucher for her help with this and I really want to commend my co-chair, Representative Willis, who spent many, many hours on

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this bill. And I ask that we move it to Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark on the bill as amended? Will you remark on the bill as amended? If not, there's been a motion made to move this item to the Consent Calendar, is there objection?

Hearing and seeing none, so moved.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President, the next items that would like to mark as a go at this time are bills from the Education Committee.

First is Calendar page 34, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 1038. And the next one is from -- is Calendar page 38, Calendar 293, Senate Bill 1103.

And then Mr. President, would mark as go, three bills from the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

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Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

And at this time, I'd ask if there's --
seeing no objection, the bill will be put on
Consent.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Good evening,
again, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President would like to have the Clerk
call the items on the Consent Calendar, so that
we might move to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in
the Senate on the First Consent Calendar. Will
all Senators please return to the Chamber?

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

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Madam President, the items placed on the First Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 1, Calendar 571, House Joint Resolution Number 122; Calendar 593, Senate Joint Resolution Number 52; Calendar page 3, Calendar Number 130, substitute for Senate Bill 999; Calendar page 5, Calendar Number 221, substitute for Senate Bill 858; Calendar 222, substitute for Senate Bill 973; Calendar page 7, Calendar Number 270, substitute for Senate Bill 212; Calendar 299, substitute for Senate Bill 139; Calendar 304, substitute for Senate Bill 860; Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 439, substitute for Senate Bill 1216; Calendar page 11, Calendar 456, substitute for Senate Bill 927; Calendar page 29, Calendar Number 41, substitute for Senate Bill 98; Calendar page 31, Calendar Number 114, substitute for Senate Bill 881; Calendar page 32, Calendar 140, substitute for Senate Bill 863; Calendar page 34, Calendar Number 201, substitute for Senate Bill 1038; Calendar page 35, Calendar 215, Senate Bill 227; Calendar 236, Senate Bill 371; Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 271, substitute for Senate Bill 1111, Calendar page 38, Calendar

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293, substitute for Senate Bill 1103; Calendar page 39, Calendar 303, substitute for Senate Bill 764; Calendar page 40, Calendar 342, Senate Bill 843; Calendar page 41, Calendar 362, substitute for Senate Bill 1217; Calendar 368, substitute for Senate Bill 882; Calendar 369, substitute for Senate Bill 939; Calendar page 43, Calendar 382, substitute for Senate Bill 1224; Calendar page 44, Calendar 398, substitute for Senate Bill 1044; Calendar page 45, Calendar 410, House Bill 5021; Calendar page 46, Calendar 434, substitute for Senate Bill 1219.

Madam President, that completes the items placed on the First Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

We'll wait a moment. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, there is one item that we will need to remove from the Consent Calendar, because it needs to be amended and be reconsidered and then amended, and that is Calendar page 5, Calendar 222, Senate Bill 973. If that item might be removed from the Consent

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Calendar and called after the Consent Calendar,
so it can be corrected?

THE CHAIR:

The bill is removed from the Consent
Calendar. At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you re-
announce the roll call vote and the machine will
be open?

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Motions on adoption and Consent Calendar

Number 1:

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0

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Those absent, not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passed. Mr. Clerk, do you want to recall that bill? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if that item might -- might be passed temporarily, I believe the amendment that would be a strike-all that we needed is not -- not here yet. So we will pass that item.

SB913

Madam President would yield the floor for Members for purposes of announcements or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege? Any point of personal privilege or announcements? Seeing none.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, it's our intention to convene tomorrow at 11:00. Also, advise Members that you should make the weekend, especially Saturday, available for possible session, as