

PA12-058

SB0294

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**SELECT
COMMITTEE
ON
CHILDREN
PART 2
319 - 596**

2012

and -- or just Josh? Josh. Thank you and welcome.

JOSH HOWROYD: Thank you. Good afternoon, Representative Urban, members of the select committee on children. My name is Josh Howroyd and I'm the Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Children and Families. And I am joined if there's questions by Attorney Thomas DiMaddio, our Assistant Legal Director and Deb Ennis, our Chief -- Assistant Chief Fiscal Officer.

We're just going to speak very briefly on a few bills on your agenda and we'd be happy to answer any questions you might have. The first bill that we'd like to support the intent of is Senate Bill 272, AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN. And DCF appreciates the need to insure that our children are enrolled in the social security supplemental security income benefits and other programs for which they may be eligible in a timely manner.

DCF received SSI benefits on behalf of 283 children last calendar year totaling 1.2 million dollars. Last year we had 142 SSI applications and 54 of those were rejected. We have no objection to the requirement to make applications for these SSI benefits but we do believe that we should not be mandated by law to mandate any denial of the application. In our written testimony we made a couple of minor suggestions for substitute language.

SB294
SB296

On Senate Bill 293, AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION PLANS, we again support the intent of this bill and we recognize the importance of documenting specialized services for both the oldest and youngest populations we serve. We agree that permanency -- the permanency plan is the appropriate vehicle to

capture this information.

The next bill we support Senate Bill 294, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. We believe that a 60 day visitation standard called for in section one and two of this bill is reasonable and I would point out that we strive for even more frequent with all children in our care. We fully appreciate the benefits of increased visitation by our staff and are committed to making this a priority for our case carrying front line staff. Section three of the bill requires DCF to respond in a timely manner to foster families written special requests for things such as travel overnight or out of state with such child's foster family.

We support this provision but we would suggest that rather than requiring the Department to promulgate regulations that we be permitted to develop a written form and that the Department shall be required to respond within five business days or otherwise the request would be deemed approved.

And finally we'd just like to comment on Senate Bill 296, AN ACT PROVIDING CERTAIN ADULT ADOPTIVE PERSONS WITH ACCESS TO PARENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND INFORMATION IN THEIR ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES. And while we fully appreciate and understand the need for adult adoptees to seek and obtain their original birth certificates we do have concerns that making this legislation effective retroactively as there are many birth parents who voluntarily relinquished parental rights with an expectation of anonymity.

We just point that out as you deliberate in terms of the discussion on this bill. That concludes our -- our formal testimony. You have

JILLIAN GILCHREST: Thank you very much.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Next we go back to our other legislators and agency heads and we have Senator Toni Harp. Nope. Phyllis, are you going to testify on her behalf?

PHYLLIS SILVERMAN: Yes.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Absolutely. Please take a seat.

PHYLLIS SILVERMAN: Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana and members of the select committee on children. My name is Phyllis Silverman. I'm legislative aide to Senator Toni Harp, who could not be here today. And so I represent her in regard to her support for Raised Bill 294, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES. This bill would require DCF personnel to visit foster children every 60 days at a minimum.

Currently the interval -- the interval for these visits is every 90 days. Senator Harp believes 90 days is too long to wait before returning to check on children in transition who are more -- who are likely more vulnerable as a result of upheaval in their lives. As we know there are times, thankfully not very often, when the foster home care does not live up to reasonable expectations when a child is brought into the home of a foster family.

And sometimes unfortunately there are times when conditions and circumstances at a foster home are not substantially better than the home from which a child has been removed.

Senator Harp believes an accelerated 60 day interval between DCF visits in accordance with this bill is important to ensure the continuing relationship between a child and its foster home

continues to be a good match for each party.

She believes moving these assessments from 90 days to 60 days will protect both the children and the foster parents from remaining in a situation that for whatever reason isn't working the way DCF anticipated or the way either party requires. Thank you very much for your time and thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill. And if there's any questions please contact my office.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, Phyllis.

PHYLLIS SILVERMAN: I'll be the one answering the phone.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, Phyllis. And of course we thank Senator Harp for bringing this to our attention. Also the department testified on the legislation and I like their suggestion on section three also that there be some written request and a form developed rather than adopting regulations. I think that might be appropriate too. But we thank you for your testimony. Any questions or concerns? No. Thank you.

PHYLLIS SILVERMAN: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Next is Karyl Lee Hall, Connecticut Legal Rights Project on Senate Bill 293. Thank you. Welcome.

KARYL LEE HALL: Madam Chair, members of the select committee on children, my name is Karyl Lee Hall. I'm an attorney with the Connecticut Legal Rights Project.

We represent individuals with mental illness in the State of Connecticut. I'm here to speak in favor of Raised Bill 293 for the following

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STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**SELECT
COMMITTEE
ON
CHILDREN
PART 3
597 - 869**

2012

here? She's from New Britain. Welcome, Kelly
-- Kelly-Ann.

KELLY-ANN JAMES-HAYNES: Good afternoon. Greetings, Senator Gerratana and other distinguished committee members. My name is Kelly-Ann James-Haynes, a graduate student from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. I am here today to testify in support -- to testify in support of Raise Senate Bill 294 which aims to increase contact between children placed in foster homes and the Department of Children and Families.

SB294

I have worked directly with children in foster care specifically those living in group homes. I have found these children to be like most teenagers, loud, having their own sense of fashion and music, or saying I just didn't get enough sleep last night. In addition to the normal teenage concerns they were also dealing with more serious issues. The most obvious was that they were miles away from their family and friends.

In addition to that they were at least 30 minutes away from their schools of origin. It wasn't until I spent my first month in Connecticut away from all of my friends and families that I could truly empathize with the loneliness that these children must feel. A few things that we know about children in foster care, they have a history of being abused, neglect -- abused and or neglected by their caregivers.

They've experienced trauma and have had multiple placements. Understanding how these experiences have shaped their thinking is beneficial in understanding why they -- they do not readily welcome new adults into their lives.

For some of these children their worker may be one of their strongest advocates or possibly the only consistent adult in their life. For some if not most children a visit from their social worker brings up many feelings. This is the person that knows their family, the neighborhood they came from and the school they attended and they also know if and when this child might go back home.

To ensure these children are not exposed to additional harm it is imperative and makes sense that DCF would visit them at least once every two months. Bimonthly visits provides follow up support to all members of the foster family and aids in creating a healthy and stable environment.

Workers can also aid foster families in coping with the challenges of a changing -- of the changing dynamics in the family. I encourage you to consider Senate Bill 294. The children of -- these children are amongst the most vulnerable in our community but with supportive legislation we can help them to become the most resilient.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued support of the children of Connecticut.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, Kelly-Ann. And thank you for giving testimony today. Did you know about our bill that I think -- was it this morning that we JF'd it on sibling visitation allowing children in foster care settings and children visit their siblings who may be elsewhere, you know in the State. Were you aware of that one?

KELLY-ANN JAMES-HAYNES: No I wasn't.

SENATOR GERRATANA: No. I'll -- I'll try to get in touch with you and give you a copy of that bill.

I would greatly appreciate that. Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Yeah. Thank you so much.

KELLY-ANN JAMES-HAYNES: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Any comments? Oh, wait a minute. Representative Wood has a follow up.

REP. WOOD: Briefly a comment. I thought the last sentence in your second to last paragraph was lovely.

These children are amongst the most vulnerable in our community but with supportive legislations we can help them to become the most resilient. I think you've in one sentence summarized what we're all trying to do. Thank you. Very well said.

KELLY-ANN JAMES-HAYNES: Thank you.

REP. WOOD: Lovely testimony.

KELLY-ANN JAMES-HAYNES: Thanks.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Okay. Next is Fran Macko from AAA. Is Fran here? No. Okay. She drove away. Well we'll put her on hold. Oh it's getting late in the day I think. Okay. Then we go to Eileen McQuade. Eileen, welcome.

EILEEN McQUADE: I'm here in regards to Raised Bill 296, AN ACT PROVIDING CERTAIN ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS WITH ACCESS TO PARENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION AN INFORMATION IN THEIR ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE. My name is Eileen McQuade and I have a birth mother from South Windsor.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Select Committee on Children

March 6, 2012



SB294

SB296

HB5346

S.B. No. 272 AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

The Department of Children and Families supports the intent behind S.B. No. 272 - An Act Concerning Social Security Support for Foster Children. This bill requires that the placement plan for each child in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families include documentation as to whether the child is eligible for benefits from the Social Security Administration, including, but not limited to, supplemental security income, survivor and disabled adult child benefits. It requires DCF to complete and submit an application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for any eligible child in its care and custody.

The Department appreciates the need to ensure that our children are enrolled for SSI and other programs for which they may be eligible in a timely manner. DCF received SSI benefits on behalf of 283 children for calendar year 2011 totaling \$1,120,107. Last year, 142 SSI applications were filed with Social Security and 54 SSI applications were disapproved. We have no objection to the requirement that we make application for SSI benefits, but we do not believe that we should be mandated by law to appeal any denial of an application.

The Committee may consider incorporating this concept into the permanency plan provisions of S.B. No. 293. In addition, we offer the following suggested amendment to the language of this bill:

- On line 1 - Delete "placement" and insert "permanency" in lieu thereof
- On lines 9 through 10 - Delete " appeal the denial of an application, if applicable, and"

S.B. No. 293 AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENCY AND TRANSITION PLANS

The Department of Children and Families supports the intent behind S.B. No. 293 - An Act Concerning Permanency and Transition Plans. This bill requires that permanency plan documents submitted by DCF and any permanency plan hearings include information regarding what steps the department has taken to make any necessary referrals for children under five years of age to early intervention, preschool, or special education services, steps taken to enable a child sixteen years of age or older to learn independent living skills and complete a secondary education or vocation program, and steps taken to develop a personalized transition plan for children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen.

We recognize the importance of documenting specialized services for both the youngest and oldest populations that we serve. We agree that the permanency plan is an appropriate vehicle to capture this information.

S.B. No. 294 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Department of Children and Families supports S.B. No. 294 - An Act Concerning Children and the Department of Children and Families. This bill requires DCF to visit foster homes and the homes of children or youth every sixty days and also requires the department to respond to foster families' written special requests in a timely manner.

We believe that a sixty day visitation standard called for sections 1 and 2 of the bill, as an absolute minimum, is reasonable and we strive for much more frequent visitation with all children in our care. Visitation standards for both out-of-home cases and in-home cases are a requirement of the *Juan F.* Exit Plan. Outcome Measure 16 requires DCF to visit at least 85% of all out-of-home children at least once a month, except for probate, interstate or voluntary cases. For the most recent evaluation period (4th Quarter 2011), the Department met this measure 98.6% of the time. Outcome Measure 17 requires the Department to visit at least 85% of all in-home family cases at least twice a month, except for probate, interstate or voluntary cases. This measure was met 85.9% of the time during the most recent evaluation period (4th Quarter 2011). The Department fully appreciates the benefits of increased visitation by our staff and is committed to making this a priority for our case-carrying, front-line staff.

Section 3 of the bill requires DCF to respond in a timely manner to foster families' written special requests for things such as travel overnight or out-of-state with such child's foster family. We support this provision, but would suggest that, rather than requiring the Department to promulgate regulations, the bill be amended to require the requests be in writing on a form developed by the Department and that the Department shall respond within five business days or otherwise the request is deemed approved.

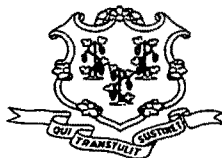
S.B. No. 296 AN ACT PROVIDING CERTAIN ADULT ADOPTED PERSONS WITH ACCESS TO PARENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND INFORMATION IN THEIR ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE

The Department of Children and Families offers the following comments regarding S.B. No. 296 - An Act Providing Certain Adult Adopted Persons with Access to Parental Health Information and Information in Their Original Birth Certificates.

The Department fully understands the need for adult adoptees to seek and obtain their original birth certificates; but DCF has concerns with making this legislation effective retroactively as

The Connecticut General Assembly

Senator Toni N. Harp – 10th District



Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban, Ranking Members and all who serve on the Select Committee on Children. I represent Senator Toni Harp with regard to her support for Raised Bill 294, An Act Concerning Children and the Department of Children and Families. The senator would like her remarks read into the committee's official transcript.

This bill would require DCF personnel to visit foster children every 60 days, at a minimum. Currently, the interval for these visits is every 90 days; I believe 90 days is too long to wait before returning to check on children in transition who are likely more vulnerable as a result of upheaval in their lives.

As we know there are times, thankfully not very often, when the foster home care does not live up to reasonable expectations when a child is first brought into the home of a foster family. And sometimes, unfortunately, there are times when conditions and circumstances at a foster home are not substantially better than the home from which a child has been removed.

I believe an accelerated, 60-day interval between DCF visits, in accordance with this bill, is important to ensure the continuing relationship between a

child and its foster home continues to be a good match for each party. I believe moving these assessments from 90 days to 60 days will protect both the children and the foster parents from remaining in a situation that – for whatever reason – isn't working the way DCF anticipated or the way either party requires.

Thank you very much for your time, and thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

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RAISED SB 294: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

March 6, 2012

Kelly-Ann James-Haynes

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

RAISED SB 294: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Greetings Senator Gerratana, Representative Urbana, and other distinguished committee members, my name is Kelly-Ann James-Haynes a graduate student from the University of Connecticut, School of Social Work. I am here today to testify in support of raised SB 294, which aims to increase contact between children placed in foster homes and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

I have worked directly with children in foster care, specifically those living in group homes. I found these children to be like most teenagers, loud, having their own sense of fashion and music, or saying they just didn't get enough sleep the night before. In addition to normal teenage concerns, they were dealing with other more serious issues, the most obvious, their families and schools or origin were at least 30 or more minutes away. It wasn't until I spent my first month in Connecticut, away from all of my family and friends that I could truly empathize with the loneliness these children must feel. A few things that we know about children in foster care: they have a history of being abused and or neglected by their caregivers, they've experienced trauma, and many have had multiple placements. Understanding how these experiences have shaped their thinking is beneficial in understanding why they do not readily trust or welcome new adults into their lives. For some of these children, their worker may be one of their strongest advocates, or possibly the only consistent adult in their life.

For some, if not most of these children, a visit from their worker brings up many feelings. This is the person who knows their family, their neighborhood, the school they came from, and possibly if and when they will return home. To insure these children are not exposed to additional harm, it is imperative and makes sense that DCF would visit them at least once every two months. Bi-monthly visits provide follow-up support for all members of the foster family, and aids in creating a healthy and stable environment. Workers can also aid foster families with coping with the challenges of changing dynamics in the family. I encourage you to pass SB 294. These children are amongst the most vulnerable in our community, but with supportive legislations we can help them to become the most resilient.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the children of Connecticut. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

78
May 5, 2012

Necessary for passage	68
Those voting Yea	135
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	16

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 421?

THE CLERK:

On page 22, Calendar 421, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 294, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, favorable report by the Committee on Human Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Fawcett of the 133rd you have the floor Madam.

REP. FAWCETT (133rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 5, 2012

Will you remark?

Representative Fawcett.

REP. FAWCETT (133rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This bill codifies two small but important administrative oversight functions of the Department of Children and Families. It first of all puts into statute the requirement that a DCF caseworker is to visit a chi -- child in foster care at least once every 60 days.

It also establishes a written request approval process for foster families to apply to DCF if they should chose to or desire to bring their foster child out of state for a trip or a vacation or any type of traveling.

I urge passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, Representative Fawcett.

Will you care to remark further on the bill?

Representative Wood, good evening, Madam.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you very -- thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Just to summarize what Representative Fawcett

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mentioned. What this bill does is DCF caseworkers will be required to visit each home every 60 days and it also speeds up the approvals for families who wish to travel with their children in their foster care.

So I hope you all will vote for this. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, Madam.

Will you care to remark further on the bill? Will you care to remark further on the bill? Will you care to remark?

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast. If so the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally.

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May 5, 2012

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 294 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total number voting	134
Necessary for passage	68
Those voting Yea	134
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	17

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Uh-oh, Representative Ritter for what purpose do you rise?

REP. RITTER (38th):

Madam Speaker, I would like my vote to be cast in the affirmative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The transcript will so note.

REP. RITTER (38th):

Thank you, thank you, Madam.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call -- call Calendar Number 183?

THE CLERK:

On page 5, Calendar 183, Substitute for House Bill

S - 639

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2012**

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SENATE

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April 18, 2012

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, this bill comes before us from a number of advocates, and the testimony was compelling and we talked with the Department of Children and Families also and they helped work on the language before us. It involves permanency plans for children beginning with those who are five years old or younger in DCF care that they have plans and be assessed for, perhaps, early intervention or other services that they may need.

This, of course, will save us a ton of money down the road, not to mention the health and well-being of the child. Also, that at DCF, for children 16 years and older, should work with them to develop independent skills and education. And for children 16 to 17 years of age that DCF is taking plans to develop a personalized transition plan.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

Seeing no objection, I ask that this item be placed on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 13, Calendar 274, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 294, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND THE

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April 18, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, favorable report
of the committee on Human Services.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I move acceptance of the joint
committees' favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage, will you remark?

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Yes, Madam President.

This bill addresses a number of concerns regarding DCF
policy. We, again, worked with the Department on a
variety of changes. It, of course, address --
addresses foster care and behavior health needs of
children under DCF and visits in foster care homes,
make some requirements, and also establishes a process
with the Department to have the Department accept
special requests from foster care parents.
Heretofore, there was not a process to do so. I move
passage of the bill.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Fasano.

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR FASANO:

Good evening, Madam President. How are you?

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SENATE

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April 18, 2012

THE CHAIR:

Fine, yourself?

SENATOR FASANO:

Good.

Madam President, through you, to the good senator.

Currently, what are the regulations or requirements for DCF to visit a family, if there are? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

We did have a discussion with the Department on this. Their -- it was my understanding that there wasn't a clear policy. The discussion centered around, well, how often do case workers visit children in foster care settings. It was agreed upon that to set, at least, every 60 days was appropriate under the legislation in this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

Thank you.

And through you, Madam President.

In the event that during the interim period for these 60 days or at one of the 60-day visits, a concern came to light, is there a procedure in which DCF would say, You know what, this has got to be a visit once every ten days or once every 15 days, a lot more than 60 days. Is there a provision, or would this prohibit such shorter visitation if the DCF deemed it reasonable? Through you, Madam President.

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SENATE

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Madam President, it is addressed in line 9, "including but not limited to at least every once 60 days," if you read a little further. So on, no, there would be as many visits, I guess, as is appropriate, and the bill does not prohibit visits more often than 60 days. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

And then, through you.

In that discussion regarding the visitation of 60 days, did you come to a belief of what the average period was for which these visitations were taking place? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

From what I understand with discussions with the Commissioner that sometimes they are more often than 60 days. Sometimes we heard in the past testimony that they were longer.

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Madam President, I thank the good senator for her answers.

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Madam President, I understand why we're doing this, and I'm supportive of this measure but with the issues that have faced DCF over the years, I would think -- and I'm perplexed as to why either by regulation or some method this was not instituted earlier. Out of all the commissions in the state, DCF seems to be an issue that many of us, as legislators, and surely many of us have read about stories and heard about stories of DCF's inability to manage what they have.

I think 60 days is probably appropriate, but I think there's issues that should less than 60 days. And I think that if the agency really wants to get its act together, the agency should institute their own policies rather than have us, as a legislature, look from this distance to tell DCF what we think is appropriate. And to think that we actually have to put it in statute is ludicrous. This is an agency that is responsible for children, and we have to sit here and tell them don't let more than 60 days go before you visit a family. You would think with all the issues that they face, they would be gnawing at the -- at the idea of setting up a schedule that's more aggressive than 60 days.

So, I thank the good senator for this proposal, and I thank the committee for this proposal, but what I do want to throw out as a caution is DCF needs to be more attentive to the concerns that they're faced with. We hear a lot of bad things about DCF. I know I've had many a bad experiences with DCF. They're unmovable. They're unshakable. They refused to bend. Logic gets in the way of normal procedures. Kids are missing. We addressed that last year. And I'm just appalled to think that we, as a legislature, have to say to them, oh, by the way, do your function and look every 60 days.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark? Will you remark?

Senator Gerratana.

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SENATE

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SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you, Madam President.

If there are no objections, I would propose this for
our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR GERRATANA:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 14, Calendar 275, Substitute for Senate Bill
Number 391, AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS BY VETERANS TO
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, favorable report of the
committee on Human Services.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Musto -- Senator Musto, please.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Thank you, Madam President.

I was just waiting for the light to go on.

THE CHAIR:

I do realize that, sir.

SENATOR MUSTO:

Madam President, I move the joint favorable report of
the committee and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

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April 18, 2012

Madam President, if we might call now to have the Clerk read the items on the Consent Calendar and then to move to a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please read the items on the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 300, House Joint Resolution Number 78; page 1, Calendar 301, House Joint Resolution Number 79.

Page 2 Calendar 302, House Joint Resolution Number 80; page 2, Senate Bill -- Calendar Number 64, Senate Bill 37.

Page 3, Calendar 89, Senate Bill 56.

Page 4, Calendar 110, Senate Bill 184; page 4, Calendar 91, Senate Bill Number 276.

Page 5, Calendar 127, Senate Bill 320.

Page 8, Calendar 203, Senate Bill 408.

Page 9, Calendar 226, Senate Bill 411; also, on page 9, Calendar 224, Senate Bill Number 339.

Page 10, Calendar 232, Senate Bill Number 186.

On page 11, Calendar 238, House Bill 5250.

On page 12, Calendar 258, Senate Bill 340; also on page 12, Calendar 259, Senate Bill 157; page 12, Calendar 265, Senate Bill 176.

Page 13, Calendar 271, Senate Bill 350; page 13, Calendar 273, Senate Bill 293; page 13, Calendar 274, Senate Bill 294.

Page 14, Calendar 285, Senate Bill 404.

Page 15, Calendar 296, Senate Bill Number 307.

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And page 24, Calendar 132, Senate Bill 337.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease for a second.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Those are the items listed. The machine will be open.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar. Thank you.

THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members voted, the machine will be locked.

And Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for passage	19
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY.