

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 15-127

HB6871

House	3895-3900	5
Senate	2873-2874, 2937-2939	5
Labor & Public Employees	1483, 1487-1488, 1658	4
		14

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2015**

**VOL.58
PART 12
3848 – 4199**

/pt
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

491
May 19, 2015

The bill passes in concurrence with the
Senate. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 233.

CLERK:

On Page 11, Calendar 233, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Public Employees, House Bill 6871 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND CLARIFYING CHANGES TO THE SUBSIDIZED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND OTHER STATUTES AFFECTING THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Labor Committee, Representative Tercyak, you have the floor.

REP. TERCYAK: (26th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this opportunity. As is tradition with the Labor Committee we worked very hard to make sure our technical --

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative, would you move acceptance.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

I'm so sorry, sir. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

/pt
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

492
May 19, 2015

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Will you remark sir?

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, sir. This is the Department of Labor's technical bill with some minor and clarifying changes mostly to the Subsidized Training and Employment Program.

And to those changes we have one more change we would like to make. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 7402. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7402, which will be designated House Amendment "A."

CLERK:

House Amendment "A," LCO 7402, introduced by Representative Tercyak and Senator Gomes.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentleman has sought leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, sir.

/pt
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

493
May 19, 2015

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, this is a bill that makes it clear how the STEP grant's money is able to be used, including that it can be used for transportation for unemployed veterans to their subsidized programs.

It makes it clear that this is a private sector bill. This is not benefits the state agencies are supposed to be applying for when they hire new people.

And also in the bill it talks about how much money can be spent to make an assessment on who to hire, to hire somebody like the Workforce Investment Board was specifically named since they were hired, and to supervise their operations.

It mentions this twice in the bill. Both times it says four percent. The administration has a policy of, they don't spend more than five percent on administration. We like things to go to the people who are supposed to be getting the benefit.

So what this amendment does is changes one of those four to a one percent, so we're down to a total of five percent for advertising,

/pt
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

494
May 19, 2015

administration and the other expenses that go along with overseeing the good work done on this bill, through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

And do you move acceptance of, or adoption?

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. The question before the Chamber is adoption of House "A." Will you remark? Representative Becker, who hit his button inadvertently. Would you care to remark further on House "A"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of House "A" please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay? The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Would you care to remark on the bill as amended? Representative Rutigliano.

REP. RUTIGLIANO (123rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from

/pt
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

495
May 19, 2015

what we could ascertain from the bill it does seem to be just minor and technical changes to the STEP program and doesn't pose any issues, and we support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please report to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

/pt
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

496
May 19, 2015

House Bill 6871 as amended by House "A"

Total Number Voting	138
Necessary for Passage	70
Those voting Yea	138
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	13

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill, as amended, is passed. The Clerk
please call Calendar 145.

CLERK:

On Page 5, House Calendar 145, Favorable
Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning
and Development, Substitute House Bill 5092 AN ACT
CONCERNING DISCONTINUANCE OF HIGHWAYS AND PRIVATE
WAYS BY MUNICIPALITIES, previously passed
temporarily with House "A." Called but not
adopted. Oh, I'm sorry. Called and adopted.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Miller, you have the floor.

REP. MILLER (36th):

Yes. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable
Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

**S - 687
CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2015**

**VOL. 58
PART 9
2668 – 2992**

/pt
SENATE

167
June 1, 2015

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Next bill is Calendar Page 5, Calendar 389, House Bill 6914, is to be on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 6, Calendar 434, House Bill 5358, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President, on Calendar Page 70, Calendar 440, House Bill 7018, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 22, Calendar 569, House Bill 6894, I'd like to place that on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 23, Calendar 570, House Bill 6871, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

/pt
SENATE

168
June 1, 2015

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 28, Calendar 605, House Bill 6736, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar Page 30, Calendar 612, House Bill 6752, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President, and our final item, Calendar Page 42, Calendar 313, Senate Bill 575, like to place that item on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir, seeing no objection.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On Page 26, Calendar 587, House Bill No. 5907, AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST RESPONDERS. It's

/pt
SENATE

231
June 1, 2015

[pause]

THE CHAIR:

Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call board to see that your vote is properly recorded.

If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take a tally and announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1096

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Passage	19
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	1
Absent/not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill, as amended, is passed. [gavel]

THE CHAIR: (The President in the Chair.)

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President, if we can now call for a vote on the Consent Calendar, Consent Calendar No. 1. If the Clerk can call those items and then we'll have a vote following.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On Page 2, Calendar 105, Senate Bill 903, Page 5, Calendar 387, House Bill 6873, also on Page 5, Calendar 389, House Bill 6914 and on Page 6, Calendar 434, House Bill 5358. On Page 7, Calendar 440, House Bill 7018, Page 8, Calendar 465, House Bill 6375. Also on Page 8, Calendar 459, Senate Bill 1131, on

/pt
SENATE

232
June 1, 2015

Page 9, Calendar 466, House Bill 5771, and on Page 9, Calendar 467, House Bill 6451.

Also on Page 9, Calendar 468, House Bill 6747, and on Page 9 again, 472, House Bill 6678, on Page 12, Calendar 495, Senate Bill 1137, on Page 13, Calendar 504, House Bill 6959 and on Page 19, Calendar 538, House Bill 6695, Page 21, Calendar 559, House Bill 6974 and on Page 22, Calendar 569, House Bill 6894.

HB6694

Page 23, Calendar 570, House Bill 6871, Page 25, Calendar 584, House Bill 7020, on Page 26, Calendar 587, House Bill 5907, Page 28, Calendar 605, House Bill 6736, on Page 30, Calendar 612, House Bill 6752, Page 41, Calendar 148, Senate Bill 303.

On Page 42, Calendar 313, Senate Bill 575, and on Page 50, Calendar 520, House Bill 6729.

THE CHAIR:

At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the First Consent Calendar?

CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call on Consent Calendar No. 1 has been ordered in the Senate.

[pause]

THE CHAIR:

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

CLERK:

On Consent Calendar No. 1

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent/not voting	0

/pt
SENATE

233
June 1, 2015

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. [gavel] Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move that all items requiring action by the House be immediately transmitted.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Is there a Senate Agenda No. 2 on the Clerk's desk?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 2 dated Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President, I move that all items on Senate Agenda No. 2 dated Tuesday, June 2, 2015 be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Transcript and be immediately placed on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES
PART 4
1274 – 1713**

2015

REP. TERCYAK: Well, there is.

REP. MCGEE: Okay. Brandon McGee, Hartford, Windsor, 5th Assembly District. Welcome back, Senator.

REP. TERCYAK: Thank you very much. You've met our legal staff, our aides, and with that thank you for the indulgence of the public for letting us do our announcements and our welcome back. Let's get to our agenda.

We were reviewing bills today. They're Committee bills, and we'll be going in -- we'll start with government officials. First up is Commissioner Palmer of the Labor Department, please. Welcome, Commissioner.

Hit the button so the world can hear you.

COMMISSIONER SHARON PALMER: Let me also offer my welcome to Senator Gomes. Thank you for coming back. I think we will be having some good conversations. Appreciate you being here, and Representative Tercyak, members of the Committee.

SB 985 SB 988

SB 1034 SB 1038

I'm Sharon Palmer, Commissioner of Labor. There are eight bills that I want to weigh in. I'm going to go as quickly as possible so I don't take up too much of your time and hope that you might ask some questions.

SB 1039 HB 6850

HB 6871

The first one is the Governor's Bill 953, Labor Peace. I'm here to support this important Governor's Bill. The bill requires certain contracts for hotel and concession area operation or management services into which the Capital Region Development Authority enters and which the CRDA has made an initial investment

Without reading the rest of the testimony, essentially the practice amongst some contractors is that they take no responsibility for the subcontractors and in fact turn a blind eye to -- to subcontractors, who they hire, if they don't -- and they don't have proper wage scales, they don't pay their insurances, and there are other problems.

We want to make those contractors responsible for the people they hire. They should screen them. They should make sure that they have what they need to be responsible contractors.

6850, PAY EQUITY AND FAIRNESS. Absolutely support this bill. I served on a task force with Commissioner Catherine Smith of DECD to talk about pay equity and fairness and this concept is an outgrowth of that task force, and for those of you who don't know there is a practice among private industry where employees cannot talk to each other about what -- how much money they make -- and in fact in some companies you can be fired if you reveal what your pay is.

So we think that that makes it very difficult for anyone to determine if they have pay equity in their job. So we would like people to be able to have those conversations with one another so they can determine whether or not they have achieved pay equity, so just to that one.

And lastly 6871, MINOR AND CLARIFYING CHANGES TO THE STEP UP PROGRAM and last year there was a -- a bill passed regarding Step Up and the term new apprentice was used in the bill. There really is no such term. You're either apprentice or you're pre-apprentice, so we'd

like to have that language changed from new apprentice to pre-apprentice, which is the appropriate use to -- to dovetail the current statute.

And that's it. That's enough for now, and I'll be happy to try and answer your questions if you have any.

REP. TERCYAK: Thank you very much. Are there any questions or comments? Not right away? Let's see. Thank you for offering to work with us, in particular on the 14-year-olds as referees -

COMMISSIONER SHARON PALMER: Uh-huh.

SB985
REP. TERCYAK: -- and the barbershops and apprenticeships. Oddly enough I've already heard from people on both those bills today.

COMMISSION SHARON PALMER: Uh-huh.

REP. TERCYAK: I don't think that the folks we were hearing from had -- would have any objection to changing what you said to be in either of those bills, or should be done in a different way, so I appreciate you working with us on that. Let's try and make something good --

COMMISSION SHARON PALMER: Good.

REP. TERCYAK: -- that, with the department, that we can be proud of. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER SHARON PALMER: Okay.

REP. TERCYAK: Okay. That's it.

COMMISSIONER SHARON PALMER: Thank you.



**Testimony of
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2015**

Good Day Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill No. 6871 AAC Minor and Clarifying Changes to the Subsidized Training and Employment Program and Other Statutes Affecting the Labor Department**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I am here in support of the Department's technical bill. This bill seeks to clarify current language in the STEP program statutes and would prevent otherwise eligible businesses from receiving grants for program if a new hire is made to displace a current employee. The bill changes the term "new apprentice" to "preapprentice" to avoid ambiguity within current state and federal laws and regulations. The term "apprentice" has a specific meaning in both state and federal laws. An indication that an individual is an apprentice when he or she does not meet the definition under the law would cause confusion.

The bill would exclude the state and its political subdivisions from the STEP program because it appears that the intent of the program was for the benefit of individuals and private sector employers. Finally, the bill would delete extraneous statutory references regarding wage boards and minimum fair wage orders (Sec. 31-58 and 31-).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.