

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

## PA15-19

### HB6717

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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public  
Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives  
Proceedings

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**H – 1206**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2015**

**VOL.58  
PART 5  
1386 – 1739**

/ks  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 6, 2015

Those absent and not voting 2

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

The bill, as amended, is passed. Will the  
Clerk please call Calendar 115.

CLERK:

On page 5, House Calendar 115, Favorable  
Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Aging.  
Substitute for H.B. 6717, AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
STATE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

Representative Serra.

REP. SERRA (33<sup>rd</sup>):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I  
move the exceptions of the Joint Committee's  
Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

The question before the Chamber is on  
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable  
Report and passage of the bill. Representative  
Serra?

REP. SERRA (33<sup>rd</sup>):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this  
bill creates technical changes of the various  
CHOICES program here in the state of Connecticut,

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to conform to: 1) with the federally recognized Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADCR program), and additionally the technical changes administered as a component of the CHOICES program, and this is being put under the Department of Aging. Thank you, Mrs. - Madam Speaker. I move for adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

Will you remark further? Representative Bolinsky.

REP. BOLINKSY (106<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you very much Madam Speaker. It's nice to see you up there. If it please you, I'd like to just to ask one or two questions to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

You may proceed, sir.

REP. BOLINKSY (106<sup>th</sup>):

Okay, thank you. Through you, Madam Speaker. To the proponent of the bill: is there a fiscal notice associated with this particular bill?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

Representative Serra.

REP. SERRA (33<sup>rd</sup>):

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Thank you, Madam Speaker. The report from fiscal analysis - there is no fiscal impact.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

Representative Bolinsky.

REP. BOLINKSY (106<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you, though you, to the proponent of the bill. I think that he's already explained very nicely that these are just technical changes and actually just a naming of a program. So, I urge my colleagues to support this, and I will be a yes vote on the measure. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will members please take your seats, the machine will be opened.

[bell ringing]

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by  
roll. The House of Representatives is voting by

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roll. Will members please report to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will members please check the board to determine if 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:

House Bill 6717

Total Number Voting 147

Necessary for Passage 74

Those voting Yea 147

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 4

DEPUTY SPEAKER GENTILE:

The bill passes. [gavel] Will the Clerk please call Calendar 131.

CLERK:

House Calendar 131, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce. House Bill 6833, on page 6 of the Calendar, AN ACT CONCERNING

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SENATE**

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THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order. Senator Duff please.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President, we'll continue with our markings. On Calendar page 8, Calendar 263, Senate Bill 931 is a go. Let's see - next, Calendar page 10, Calendar 286, Senate Bill 958 is a - we'll mark that go. Next is Calendar page 10, Calendar 305, Senate Bill 1071. Next is Calendar page 11 -

THE CHAIR:

Is that a go, sir?

SENATOR DUFF:

Is a go. These are all goes.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Calendar page 11, Calendar 320, Senate Bill 398. Next is Calendar page 11, Calendar 321, Senate Bill 636. Followed by Calendar page 13, Calendar 376, Senate Bill 1045. Followed by Calendar 13, Calendar 379, Senate Bill 917. Next is Calendar page 16, Calendar 427, Senate Bill 900, followed by Calendar 20, Calendar 460, House Bill 6717. I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Next is Calendar page 21, Calendar 464, House Bill 6991. I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.



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Thank you. Mr. Clerk. Will you please call those items on the Consent Calendar please?

CLERK:

Page 1, Calendar 448, House Joint Resolution 101.  
Page 2, Calendar 87, Senate Bill 877. Page 6, Calendar  
Bill 221, Senate Bill 103. Page 8, Calendar No. 260,  
Senate Bill 739. Page 8, Calendar No. 263, Senate Bill  
931. Page 10, Calendar No. 293, Senate Bill 1057. Page  
13, Calendar No. 379, Senate Bill 917.

Page 13, Calendar No. 366, Senate Bill 981. Page 13,  
Calendar No. 362, Senate Bill 1102. Page 16, Calendar  
No. 427, Senate Bill 900. Page 20, Calendar No. 460,  
House Bill 6717. Page 21, Calendar No. 464, House Bill  
6991. Page 22, Calendar No. 469, House Bill 6671. Page  
23, Calendar No. 476, House Bill 6913.

Page 26, Calendar No. 496, Senate Bill 1056. Page 38,  
Calendar No. 114, Senate Bill 865. Page 39, Calendar  
No. 139, Senate Bill 523. Page 42, Calendar No. 201,  
Senate Bill 445. Page 44, Calendar No. 244, Senate  
Bill 481. Page 45, Calendar No. 291, Senate Bill 1054.  
Page 45, Calendar No. 292, Senate Bill 1055.

Page 48, Calendar No. 349, Senate Bill 361. Page 50,  
Calendar No. 412, Senate Bill 677. Page 51, Calendar  
No. 433, Senate Bill 1114. And page 51, Calendar No.  
414, Senate Bill 467.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Please call roll call vote. The machine will be opened on the first and last Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the  
Senate for Consent Calendar 1. An immediate roll call  
vote has been ordered in the Senate.

[pause]

THE CHAIR:

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If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adopted	18
Total voting Yea	35
Total voting Nay	0
Absent/not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. [gavel] Senator Duff.  
Senator Duff. Can somebody put Senator Duff on please.  
Thank you. Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President, and despite the human cry to do even more bills tonight -

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, right.

SENATOR DUFF:

I think it is time for us to call it a night and to advise our Senators and staff that we'll be back at noon tomorrow. We will go straight in. We will not caucus first. Or pass go. We'll just go right in at noon tomorrow. And we - make sure that everybody has a very safe ride home tomorrow, and we'll ask if anybody has any points or announcements before we adjourn.

THE CHAIR:

Points of personal privilege? Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**AGING  
1 – 503**

**2015  
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 mhr/gbr AGING COMMITTEE

February 17, 2015  
 10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMEN: Senator Flexer  
 Representative Serra

VICE CHAIRMEN: Senator Osten  
 Representative Rovero

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
 SENATOR: Kelly

REPRESENTATIVES: Adinolfi, Bolinsky, Cook,  
 Hampton, Kokoruda,  
 Luxemburg, Pavalock, Zoni

REP. SERRA: Good morning; I'd like to welcome you to another public hearing of the Aging Committee.

Before we start, I want to see if there's any comments to be made by the Senate Chair or the ranking member. Thank you; no comments.

First off, we're going to have, as I get the -- the title correct, the Acting-Commissioner of the Aging Committee.

Morning, Commissioner.

ACTING-COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH B. RITTER: Good morning, Senator Flexer, Representative Serra, the members of the Committee on Aging; thank you, very much, for the time today.

I have testimony for you on three bills that are on your agenda -- I believe you have copies -- and the first one would be Senate Bill 287, A TASK -- AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR NUTRITIONAL SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

As a designated sole state unit on aging in Connecticut, the State Department on Aging administers programs not only funded by the

SB716

H3671B

This program has incredible value to caretakers, working very hard to keep their family members in their homes through some of their most difficult times. However, in the absence of that additional appropriation, the impact of increasing this limit would effectively reduce its effectiveness in helping these people.

Thank you for your attention and your support and interest in our Alzheimer's disease Respite Care Program. And I don't speak casually when I say that I know that everybody in this room is committed to this program.

HB6717

The last bill, House Bill 6716, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM, comes as a, as a proposal from the agency, and I want to thank the committee for giving it the time and taking it up.

The State Department on Aging is requesting a technical change to 17a-316a to change the name of the program, Community CHOICES, to the federally recognized Aging and Disability Resource Center program. Additionally, the technical change seeks to administer the ADRCs as a component of our existing CHOICES program, Connecticut's programs for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening.

In my testimony, I outline for you the history of the, coming from the federal government in establishing the ADRCs as the state program across every state in the country, as, indeed, we've adapted and built it out here in Connecticut.

The Department would like to specifically request that the proposed bill as written be amended to reflect the change to CHOICES by

eliminating the phrase "health insurance assistance," in lines 10 and 11 and replacing it with "CHOICES." In so doing, this will align the ADRCs under the CHOICES' umbrella of programing, not the health insurance assistance aspect, as the bill currently reads. By changing the name from the community CHOICES program to Aging and Disability Resource Center program, they will be recognized as they are throughout the country as the single points of entry in the long-term supports and services system in Connecticut for older adults and people with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this technical change. We will always be available at your disposal to discuss this and any other of your legislation.

Thank you, very much, for your time here.

REP. SERRA: Any questions from members of the committee for the Commissioner?

Thank you, Commissioner. I hope that those changes that you just enumerated maybe will give us a little more leverage in some funding from Washington.

ACTING-COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH B. RITTER: As always.

REP. SERRA: Thank you, Commissioner.

ACTING-COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH B. RITTER: Thank you.

REP. SERRA: Next up is Deb Migneault from the Commission on Aging.

DEBORAH MIGNEAULT: Good morning, Representative Serra --

REP. SERRA: Good morning.



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TI

*Written Testimony before the Aging Services Committee*

*Elizabeth B. Ritter on behalf of the State Department on Aging*

*February 17, 2015*

Senator Flexer, Representative Serra, Senator Kelly, Representative Bolinsky, and distinguished members of the Aging Committee. My name is Betsy Ritter. I am the Acting Commissioner of the State Department on Aging. I am here today to offer support for SB 6717: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM and thank the committee for raising this bill on our agency's behalf.

The State Department on Aging (SDA) is requesting a technical change to 17a-316a to change the name of the program – Community Choices – to the federally recognized Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program. Additionally, the technical change seeks to administer ADRCs as a component of the CHOICES program - Connecticut's programs for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling and Eligibility Screening.

In 2004, the Federal Administration on Aging began providing grants to states for demonstration projects which would phase in the establishment of joint ADRCs to serve as single points of entry into the long-term supports and services system for older adults and people with disabilities. In 2008, Connecticut, through the then Aging Services Division of the Department of Social Services, applied for federal funding to develop projects in two of the state's regions in partnership with the regional Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Independent Living Centers. Connecticut legislation (contained in Sec. 17a-316a) which referred to the ADRCs as "Community Choices" program was subsequently enacted to enable SDA to apply for federal grants to provide a single, coordinated system of information, and access for all residents seeking long-term services and supports via ADRCs under the coordination of SDA.

It is also the intent of the Department to place ADRCs under the umbrella of CHOICES. For almost 20 years "CHOICES" has been the widely recognized moniker in CT for "one-stop-shopping" aging information and assistance. Operated under the auspices of the SDA and through the AAAs, these programs have been funded through the federal





Older Americans Act by the Administration on Aging and the parent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grants and allocations. The flagship program, and most widely recognized, has been the health insurance assistance program detailed in the state statutes under Sec. 17a-314. When the proposed bill was drafted, the language was written to reflect that the ADRCs would be administered as part of SDA's health insurance assistance program rather than administered as a separate program under the CHOICES overall umbrella of aging information and assistance programs.

The Department would like to respectfully request that the proposed bill as written be amended to reflect this change to CHOICES by eliminating the phrase "health insurance assistance" in lines 10 and 11, and replacing it with "CHOICES". In so doing, this will align the ADRCs under the CHOICES umbrella of programming, not the health insurance assistance aspect as the Bill currently reads. All CHOICES and Community Choices programming are accessible through the same toll-free number (1-800-994-9422) and physically operated together out of each of the five regional AAAs. These technical changes impact none of the substantive aspects of the program but merely clarify the actual overall scope of the CHOICES programs administered by the Department on Aging. By changing the name from the "Community Choices" program to "Aging and Disability Resource Center" program they will be recognized as they are throughout the country as the single points of entry into the long-term supports and services system in CT for older adults and people with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this technical change. We respectfully request that the committee take favorable action on this bill, with the modification we have recommended. As always the Department is at your disposal at any time for questions or discussion.

