

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA15-5

HB6912

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

**PROCEEDINGS
2015**

**VOL.58
PART 3
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Are there any other announcements or
introductions? Announcements or introductions?

If not, we will return to the Call of the
Calendar. Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number
59.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 59, Favorable Report of the Joint
Standing Committee on Children, House Bill 6724 AN ACT
CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, as
amended.

No? I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Okay, I guess there was a little glitch here in
the system once again today. Might have been my fault
this time, but we are going to remove Calendar Number
59 from the board and we will come back to it.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 133, 133, Mr.
Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, House Calendar 133, Favorable
Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public
Safety and Security, House Bill 6912 AN ACT CONCERNING
THE SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Stevie Dargan, you have the floor,
sir.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report
and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of
the Joint Favorable, Committee's Favorable Report and
passage of the bill. Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. This bill
just simply extends a year of awarding the grant
application from June 30 of '15 to June 30th of 2016.
The grants are for developing and improving security
infrastructures within our schools around the state
based on results of the school building security
assessments conducted under the supervision of the
local law enforcement agencies.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, Representative Dargan. Will you care
to remark further on the bill before us? The lovely

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Ranking Member, Representative Zupkus, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Thank you, Madam Chair, nice to see you up there, Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Lovely to see you.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Through you, just one question for the Chair, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

I would just like to ask, does this bill require any further, any additional funding?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, at this time, no.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Zupkus.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Thank you. And this bill was voted unanimously out of the Public Safety Committee and I think it's

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really an important piece of legislation, so I encourage all of my colleagues to support this. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam. Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us?

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

Will members please come to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to determine that your vote has been properly cast.

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

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6912.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Total number voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 135.

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 135, Favorable Report of the Joint
Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security,
House Bill 6914 AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOLITION LICENSURE
AND DEMOLITION PERMITS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I move for
the acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable
Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance
of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage
of the bill. Will you remark, Representative Dargan?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Next, Calendar page 32, Calendar page - Calendar 375, Senate Bill 458. Like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Next Calendar, page 34, Calendar 388, House Bill 6912. Like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Next, Calendar page 36, Calendar No. 407, like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

SB1029

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Next is page 43, Calendar page 43, Calendar 159, Senate Bill No. 1016, like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. I believe that, at the moment, is the items on our Consent Calendar. What I'd like to mark as go right now, is Calendar page two, Calendar No. 394, House Joint Resolution No. 98, and

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Page 1, Calendar 391, House Joint Resolution No. 95. Also on page 1, Calendar 392, House Joint Resolution No. 96. Page 2, Calendar 393, House Joint Resolution No. 97. Page 2, Calendar 422, Senate Joint Resolution No. 50. Also on page 2, , Calendar 394, House Joint Resolution No. 98. Page 2, Calendar 421, Senate Joint Resolution No. 49.

On page 3, Calendar 63, Senate Bill No. 7. Also on Page 3, Calendar 64, Senate Bill No. 8. On page 4, Calendar 80, Senate Bill 890. Page 5, Calendar 98, Senate bill 850. On page 6, Calendar 104, Senate Bill No. 894. And on page 8, Calendar 122, Senate Bill No. 415. Page 8, Calendar 125, Senate Bill 856. On page 20, Calendar 279, Senate bill No. 991.

Page 22, Calendar 300, Senate Bill No. 738. Page 23, Calendar 304, Senate Bill No. 112. And on page 26, Calendar 336, Senate Bill No. 121.

On page 28, Calendar 348, Senate Bill 360. Page 31, Calendar 371, Senate Bill No. 919. On page 32, Calendar 375, Senate bill 458. Page 34, Calendar 388, House Bill 6912. On page 36, Calendar 407, Senate Bill 1029. Page 43, Calendar 159, Senate Bill 1016. On page 16, Calendar 239, Senate Bill No. 18. Also, House Joint Resolution No. 99.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for roll call vote. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call on today's Consent Calendar has been ordered in the senate.

THE CHAIR:

THE CHAIR:

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

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SENATE

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CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar

Total Number of Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent/not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar is passed. [gavel] Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. We have two more little quick things of business. One is on Calendar page 41, Calendar 142, Senate Bill 1015. I'd like to refer that Bill to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, we're gonna go back to Calendar page 4, Calendar 81, Senate Bill 891, and we're going to have a Go amendment and then have a referral once the amendment is adopted.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you recall the bill please?

CLERK:

Page 4, Calendar 81, Senate Bill No. 891: AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING. Favorable Report of the Committee on Housing.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Winfield.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 2
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2015

notification and disaster planning puzzle as
are the rest of us.

Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you, Mary Kate.

Questions from members?

Thank you very much for your testimony.

MARY KATE LOWNDES: Thank you.

REP. DARGAN: Next presenter is William Shea,
Deputy Commissioner of DESPP.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAM P. SHEA: Good morning,
Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, and
members of the Public Safety and Security
Committee. I am William Shea, the Deputy
Commissioner of the Department of Emergency
Services and Public Protection.

I'd like to thank you for raising two of the
Department's legislative proposals which are
before you today, House Bill 6912 and House
Bill 6913.

The Department of Emergency Services and
Public Protection strongly supports both of
these important pieces of legislation. House
Bill Number 6912, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL
SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM. Under current law,
all funds allocated under the School Security
Grant Program have an end date of June 30,
2015 which means that all expenses would have
been paid by the town, city or school district
by that date.

A number of school districts and communities
have expressed concern to DESPP that they may
not be able to complete the approved work
which includes construction and involves
design, bidding and awarding contracts before
the current cutoff date of June 30, 2015.

This proposal would extend the performance period for the School Security Grant Program to June 30, 2016 which would give the schools the time that they need to complete these important school security upgrades.

And then House Bill Number 6913, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANS OF OPERATION, under current law, municipalities are required to submit their emergency operations plan to the DESPP Commissioner on an annual basis for approval.

This proposal would require the towns to submit their plans biennially. These plans provide the framework for response and recovery at the local level. But as these plans change only slightly, on an annual basis, changing the submission schedule from annually to biennially will reduce the administrative burden to both the state and at the local level.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much, Deputy Commissioner.

Any questions?

I -- I just have one in relation to the School Security Grant Program. I know we're trying to extend it that year. I'm also aware that some of the federal dollars have been depleted on -- on the monies that the states, you know, received.

HB 6912

So the allocation of those grants, I know there's been some to public schools and now to some nonpublic schools the last go around of grant allocation. Is -- is there, in the future, the opportunity for more grant applications for other schools within our state?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAM P. SHEA: I think the -- the best way to answer that, Representative Dargan, is that the -- the first grant period, if you will, when we started in 2013 was specifically to public schools.

The second not only allowed for public schools but also allowed for private and parochial schools as well as our technical high schools which they've all have been participating in.

The intent is to be able to reach out to as many schools as possible to improve and to continue to improve their security posture. And there's no doubt that, from what we've seen coming in from the grant requests, that each one of these schools is continuing to move forward with that.

With regards to federal dollars, that -- that goes on an annual basis what we can and can't use. There really is a lot from that perspective but this is pretty much focusing just on the -- the State Grant Program.

REP. DARGAN: Thank you very much, Commissioner.

Further questions from any Committee members at all?

Thank you very much for your testimony.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAM P. SHEA: Thank you, Representative. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

REP. DARGAN: Again I don't know if Michael Criss, the first selectman of Harwinton if he has arrived and I know that Senator Hartley is not here so -- she's in another committee at this time.

So what we'll do is, once they get here, we'll -- we'll call on -- on them since there's nobody else on the Legislators or agency or



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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Testimony
submitted to the
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 3, 2015

HB 6912 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports HB 6912, An Act Concerning the School Security Grant Program, which provides the extension of time for the security grant program. Districts have many options to pursue to enhance safety and security, and the additional time will allow for full examination of those options.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.



CCM 2015 Testimony

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 3, 2015

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6912 "An Act Concerning the School Security Grant Program"

HB 6913 "An Act Concerning Local Emergency Plans of Operation"

CCM ***supports*** both HB 6912 and HB 6913 which would assist towns and cities' local public safety efforts.

HB 6912 would extend the time period for the awarding of school security grants from 2015 to 2016. This grant has been an important resource in modernizing local school security infrastructure – and ultimately helping to help keep our students safe. The matching-grant program would reimburse municipalities for a portion of the costs associated with making safety and security improvements in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

HB 6913 would allow municipalities to submit local emergency operation plans every two years, rather than every year. Often, these plans do not change much from year to year, therefore this proposal would provide relief for municipalities, as well for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DEMHS) to review them annually – without compromising the integrity of the plans themselves.

CCM urges the Committee to ***favorably report*** both HB 6912 and HB 6913.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.



Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Public Safety Committee
March 3, 2015

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 115 towns throughout Connecticut, appreciates the opportunity to comment in *support* of HB-6912, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

HB-6912 simply extends the time period for awarding a school security grant. This grant program has been a successful tool in assisting school districts in improving security infrastructure in schools to help keep our children and school employees safe.

COST also *supports* HB-6913, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANS OF OPERATION.

HB-6913 requires local emergency plans of operation to be filed biennially rather than annually. This will help reduce costs on municipalities, which is helpful given the serious fiscal challenges facing our communities.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns. More information is available at www.ctcost.org.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

DESPP Testimony
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 3, 2015

Good morning, Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. I am William Shea, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Thank you for raising two of the Departments legislative proposals which are before you today- H.B. 6912 and H.B. 6913. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection strongly supports both of these important pieces of legislation.

H.B. No. 6912-AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

Under current law, all allocated funds under the school security grant program have an end date of June 30, 2015, which means all expenses would have been paid by the town/city/school district by that date. A number of school districts and communities have expressed concern to DESPP that they may not be unable to complete approved work, which includes construction and involves design, bidding, and awarding contracts before the current cutoff date of June 30, 2015.

This proposal would extend the performance period for the school security grant program to June 30, 2016 which would give the schools the time they need to complete these important school security upgrades.

H.B. No. 6913-AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANS OF OPERATION.

Under current law, municipalities are required to submit their emergency operations plan to the DESPP Commissioner on an annual basis for approval. This proposal would require towns to submit their plans biennially.

These plans provide the framework for response and recovery at the local level but as these plans change only slightly on an annual basis, changing the submission schedule from annually to biennially will reduce the administrative burden at both the state and local levels.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Demolition Permit Advisory

9/24/2014

Please be advised that the Department of Administrative Services will be working with the legislature next session to revise C.G.S. § 29-406 to eliminate the conflict in the statutes and to ensure that any insurance required to obtain a demolition permit is commercially available and acceptable.

Until the statutory conflict is resolved, the Office of the State Building Inspector will no longer require that certificates of insurance relating to demolition permits include save harmless language. We recommend that municipalities accept the following documents instead to fulfill this statutory requirement:

- 1) A certificate of insurance demonstrating the prescribed coverage, and which names the municipality issuing the demolition permit as an additional insured; and
- 2) A separate declaration from the contractor, on company letterhead signed by an officer of the company, with the following save harmless statement:

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute § 29-406, we [**contractor**] hereby agree to save harmless the [**town or city**] and its agents from any claim or claims arising out of the negligence of the applicant or his agents or employees in the course of the demolition operations associated with [**project title, address**].
