

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-109

HB5356

Senate 3087, (3094-3096) 4

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
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SENATE

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May 4, 2016

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 12, Calendar 454, House Bill 5360,
I'd like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, seeing no objection.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 12, Calendar 457, House Bill 5356,
I'd like to place that on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 13, Calendar 472, House Bill 5311,
I'd like to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar page 13, Calendar 476, House Bill 5359 -
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THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

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THE CHAIR:

All right. Mr. Clerk, will call the Consent Calendar. The machines will be open.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

(Inaudible comment.)

THE CHAIR:

Okay. Just get going. It's getting there. It's getting there. You've got to call for a vote. Okay. She's pulling it up, she's pulling it up.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, if the Clerk can just read the bill numbers and not the titles, that would be great.

THE CHAIR:

That's right. Okay.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5470, House Bill [inaudible], 5423,
[inaudible], 5593, 5360, 5311, 5359, 5366, 5317,
5329, [inaudible], 5438, 5637, 5520, 5553, 5510,
5420, 5540, 5484, 5306, 5289, 5639, 5147, 5411,
5055, [inaudible], 5479, 5138, 5189.

(HB5356) (HB5629)

(HB5433) (HB5291)

(HB5601) (HB5051)

(HB5638) (HB5556)

(HB5261) (HB5596)

(HB5259) (HB5444)

THE CHAIR:

Okay.

(Applause.)

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The machine is open.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, I need to add one more. Calendar 513, page 19, Calendar 513, House bill 5553.

THE CHAIR:

It's already on Consent, sir. May I open the machines to vote.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I need to, does the Clerk have agendas 6 and 7?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir.

THE CLERK:

The Clerk has Senate Agenda 6 and 7. They have been printed and on Senators' desks and dated Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, I move that all items on Senate Agendas 6 and 7, dated Wednesday, May 4, 2016, be

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acted upon as indicated and the Agenda be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and transcript and placed immediately on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call is ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Come on, come on, come on. Crisco, Crisco, Crisco.
Where's Crisco? Where is Crisco? Come on Joe.

All members have voted? All members have voted?
The machine will be closed. The Consent Calendar passed.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 3 [inaudible].

(Applause.)

THE CHAIR:

I almost [inaudible] holding the clock back. Don't worry about it [inaudible] it. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, I move that we adjourn Sine Die.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**VETERANS'
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**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

HB 5356, An Act Concerning Veterans' Health Records

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5356, An Act Concerning Veterans' Health Records**. CHA has concerns about the bill as written.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide core healthcare services to all of the people in Connecticut, 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals offer safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care that protects and improves peoples' lives.

HB 5356 seeks to eliminate a financial barrier for veterans who need their medical records submitted as part of a veteran's benefit claim or appeal to either the federal or state government. CHA supports the idea of removing barriers for veterans relating to these specific government programs and asks that you consider adding clarifying language to avoid anticipated confusion regarding the intent of the proposed legislation.

We would like to note that HB 5356 only addresses records held by practitioners governed by Section 20-7c of the Connecticut General Statutes, but does not address records held by other facilities such as hospitals. This will be confusing for all involved. Additionally, we urge that the language be clarified, preferably through use of plain language, not just legal citations, which are consistent with the current law, referencing social security disability applications. This will best facilitate understanding by patients and providers alike. Specifically, the bill should clearly indicate that the types of records intended to be exempt from record fees are limited to "records used to support a claim or appeal for federal or state veterans' benefits."

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.