

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-159

SB132

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 3
679 – 1032**

cf
SENATE

250
April 20, 2016

Thank you, Madam President. I thank the good Chair of the Veterans Committee as well as the ranking member of the Veterans Committee and -- and look forward to passage of the bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

If there is no objection, Madam President, I move that we place this item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, Ma'am. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I have a few items to add to our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Oh, please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 3, Calendar 145, Senate Bill 132, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

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April 20, 2016

Seeing no objections, so ordered sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 4, Calendar 183, Senate Bill 236, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, and on page -- calendar page 8, Calendar 254, Senate Bill 178, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On calendar page 8, Calendar 263, Senate Bill 252, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On calendar page 10, Calendar 294, Senate Bill 283, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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April 20, 2016

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, and that, I believe is the end of our Consent Calendar. If the clerk can now call the items on the Consent Calendar, followed by a vote on our Consent Calendar today.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. We gotta' wait two seconds to get this on, up and running, and then we will start getting the list called for you, sir.

Mr. Clerk, please call the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 131, Senate Bill 204. Page 3, Calendar 133, Senate Bill 207. Page 3, Calendar 145, Senate Bill 132. Page 4, 180 -- Calendar 183, Senate Bill 236. Page 5, Calendar 192, Senate Bill 230. Page 6, Calendar 232, Senate Bill 254. Page 7, Calendar 243, Senate Bill 364. Page 8, Calendar 261, Senate Bill 233. Also on page 8, Calendar 254, Senate Bill 178. Page 8, Calendar 263, Senate Bill 252. Page 9, Calendar 274, Senate Bill 244. Page 9, Calendar 283, Senate Bill 306. Page 10, Calendar 294, Senate Bill 283. Also on page 10, Calendar 297, Senate Bill 372. Page 11, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 436. Page 11, Calendar 309, Senate Bill 398. Page 12, Calendar 314, Senate Bill 103. On page 23, Calendar 420, House Bill 5350. Page 27, Calendar 70, Senate Bill 72. Page 28, Calendar 87, Senate Bill 107. Page 29, Calendar 126. Senate Bill 197. Page 30, Calendar 150, Senate Bill 161. Page 32, Calendar 199, Senate Bill 20. And page 35, Calendar 270, Senate Bill 288.

cf
SENATE

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April 20, 2016

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar? The machine will be open.

THE 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:

Senator Fonfara.

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

THE CLERK:

On Today's Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, does the clerk have Senate Agenda Number 2 on his desk?

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 2
529 – 1083**

2016

000559

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February 24, 2016

cd/mc

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m.

Morna Murray -- Murray, I'm sorry, and followed by Representative Susan Johnson. Your welcome Commissioner.

SB 132
SB 126

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you. Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Department of Public Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning.

I am going to be just speaking about two bills, and happy to answer questions about anything else. I want to thank you for raising --Agency Bill, concerning outdated statutory language. The term, "adult incompetent", has been replaced by revised language which is *"an adult for whom a guardian or involuntary conservator has been appointed."*

This is in keeping with many steps that DDS has been taking over the last several years to replace outdated and often unintentionally disrespectful terminology with more appropriate person centered and person first language. And this technical agency bill helps us further this goal.

DDS has encouraged the use of recycle language through several avenues including changing the name of our department, statutory language changes and an official DDS respectful language policy which you can see on the front of our website, which states that DDS is committed to promoting the respect and dignity of individuals who receive services from our department.

As standards of acceptable speech have evolved, individuals who receive support and services from DDS and it's provider network have found the use of disrespectful and non person first language to

be offensive, and a barrier to full integration into the community. We encourage our providers to use respectful language when referring to individuals receiving supports from our department. Our staff is always expected to use respectful and -- language at all times. So again, I just want to thank you for Senate Bill 132, it furthers this goal and helps us achieve what we're trying to achieve.

Secondly. I'd like to discuss Senate Bill 126, WHICH IS ENACTED CONCERNING AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM. This bill would require the commissioners of DDS, DSS and the Department of Labor to develop a plan to implement an internship program for persons with autism spectrum disorder or 'ASD', as we refer to it.

While we are very supportive of increasing internship and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities including ASD, the state does not have the fiscal and staff resources to dedicate to the development or implementation of an additional initiative, which is duplicative of services that we currently offer.

Other DDS programs that relate to internship and employment opportunities for individuals with ASD include the operation of the Medicaid Life Span waiver for individuals with ASD who do not have intellectual disability. Some of the services that are provided under this waiver include job coaching, community mentoring, life skills coaching, and behavioral supports.

Although the governor's budget proposes moving the lead agency status for Autism Spectrum Disorder to the Department of Social Services, DDS as a member of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

REP. SRINIVASAN (1ST): Thank you Commissioner and you actually answered my second question, which was, there's a big difference between opportunity as a job and an internship. I mean obviously an internship leads to a job.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Right.

REP. SRINIVASAN (1ST): And so you are able -- but you've already said very clearly and eloquently that with the various proposals that we already have, the various programs we already have comprise of both internship opportunities as well as job opportunities. So it's a question of just giving the people the appropriate road maps so that they can go to where they need to go, to get either of the two, internship or a job opportunity.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Yes, thank you. And I would, I should also add that the governor's committee on employment for individuals with disabilities which is chaired by Jonathan Slifka, the liaison to the governor for the disability community is also focused on employment. So we have multiple initiatives all of which are coordinated with each other. That is a very high priority for us for individuals with disability or ASD.

REP. SRINIVASAN (1ST): Thank you Commissioner. Thank you Madam Chair.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH): Thank you sir. Representative McCarty.

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REP. MCCARTY (38TH): Thank you Madam Chair. It's just really a comment. I would just like to

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cd/mc

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 24, 2016
11:00 a.m.

welcome the Commissioner, it's good to see you today. And, just in references to Bill 132, I'd just like to commend you on pinpointing that offensive language and changing that. I think it's a very good change and I really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH): Thank you Representative. Just a comment, take a look at the testimony from the mother who actually through her state representative proposed the legislation. I think it would be good if we had a little discussion maybe about that, either with her or with it's Representative McCarthy-Vahey, I think he asked to put the bill into our committee on behalf of the mom. And, she is looking for on-the-job training. It sounds like the department already does this in a variety of ways, so that would probably be very helpful. I'll talk to the Representative too. You know maybe to have a discussion within your department.

SB126

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Yes we would be very happy to do that Senator.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH): Yes I think that would be good.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH): Alright, well thank you so much for coming today and testifying.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH): Very good. Next is Representative Susan Johnson followed by Carolyn



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Jordan A. Scheff
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2016

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Morna Murray, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of **S.B. No. 132 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATION ON INVOLUNTARY FACILITY ADMISSIONS.**

Thank you for raising this agency bill that changes outdated statutory language "adult incompetent" to more appropriate, person-first language and terminology in line with what is used by the probate courts. The proposed revision changes the term to "an adult for whom a guardian or involuntary conservator has been appointed."

DDS has taken many steps over the past several years to replace outdated, often unintentionally disrespectful terminology with more appropriate, person-centered and person-first language and this technical agency bill furthers this goal. DDS has encouraged the use of respectful language through several avenues including changing the name of the department, statutory language changes and an official DDS respectful language policy which states that DDS is committed to promoting the respect and dignity of individuals who receive services from the department or its providers. The policy concerns the use of respectful and "person first" language when referring to individuals with disabilities by department employees and all persons licensed, funded or contracted by the Department of Developmental Services.

As standards of acceptable speech have evolved, individuals who receive supports and services from DDS and its provider network have found the use of disrespectful and "non-person first" language to be offensive and a barrier to full integration into the community. DDS encourages its providers to use respectful language when referring to individuals receiving supports and services from the department. DDS staff is expected to use respectful and "person first" language at all times. **S.B. No. 132** furthers this goal of promoting respectful and person-first language when referring to individuals who are supported by DDS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of our agency bill **S.B. No. 132**. You may contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with any questions.

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