

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

## PA 16-174

SB338

Senate	1390-1392, 1699-1701	6
Gov. Admin. & Elections	824-825, 960	3
House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400		9

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

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2016**

**VOL. 59  
PART 5  
1368 – 1703**

SENATOR SLOSSBERG (14TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. I'd like to just also acknowledge -- I'm delighted, you know, with all of the great support and assistance that we've had with this piece of legislation and the resounding support that it has in this Chamber.

And I know we have a significant number of co-sponsors downstairs, and it's exciting to see how many people are really fighting for the kids in our state in this regard.

I'd also like, in particular, to acknowledge the advocates who have been diligent and persistent and unwavering in their advocacy. And always to thank my Ranking Member, Toni Boucher -- Senator Boucher, you know, I'm not supposed to say that on the floor, right -- Senator Boucher who did such a good job in advocating for this as well.

So, if there is no objection, I would ask that this item be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir -- ma'am. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 38, Calendar 269 --

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, Senator Duff is standing. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

kbk  
SENATE

24  
April 28, 2016

Thank you -- thank you, Madam President. The next item, Calendar Page 38, Calendar 269, S.B. No. 371, I'd like to mark that item PT, please, and move to Calendar Page 8, Calendar 346, S.B. No. 338.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 8, Calendar 346, substitute for S.B. No. 338, AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILING OF STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS UNDER THE STATE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS; there are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano, good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I move acceptance of this bill and --

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, this is a bill that pertains to individuals that are in state service. Today, when they -- and this is particularly people that are not typical state employees, but leadership positions who have pensions.

kbk  
SENATE

25  
April 28, 2016

The bill pertains to individuals in state service that are required to file the statement of financial interest upon their retirement. They have 30 days to do that. We want to extend that to 60 days, because it's very difficult to do that, in that short period of time. It also requires that if there is income over \$1,000, the source and type of income should be identified. In the past we simply could just put down a number with no identification has to how that's done.

It was passed unanimously in the Committee, and I would urge adoption of the motion.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark on the bill? Will you remark on the bill? Seeing not, Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

I would ask it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection --

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

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SENATE

332  
April 28, 2016

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And on Calendar Page 9, Calendar 359, S.B. 455; I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And if the Clerk can now call the items on the Consent Calendar, followed by a vote of our Consent Calendar tonight.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, when you can, please call the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On Page 1, Calendar 83, S.B. No. 183; Page 2, Calendar 132, S.B. No. 205; on Page 4, Calendar 237, S.B. No. 298; Page 5, Calendar 285, S.B. No. 317; on Page 8, Calendar 346, S.B. No. 338; Page 9, Calendar 372, S.B. No. 346; also on Page 9, Calendar 359, S.B. No. 455; on Page 10, Calendar 374, H.B. No. 5327; Page 12, Calendar 386, H.B. No. 5379; on Page 14, Calendar 405, S.B. No. 365; Page 17, Calendar 434, S.B. No. 401; Page 17, Calendar 438, S.B. No. 267; Page 32, Calendar 69, S.B. No. 186; and on Page 33, Calendar 85, S.B. No. 187; also on Page 33, Calendar 129, S.B. No. 202; Page 34, Calendar 138, S.B. No. 137; also on Page 34, Calendar 139, S.B. No. 140; on Page 35, Calendar

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SENATE

333  
April 28, 2016

186, S.B. No. 262; Page 36, Calendar 203, S.B. No. 240; Page 36, Calendar 222, S.B. No. 301; Page 36, Calendar 226, S.B. No. 179; on Page 37, Calendar 249, S.B. No. 122; Page 38, Calendar 257, S.B. No. 139; on Page 40, Calendar 333, S.B. No. 289; and on Page 41, Calendar 349, S.B. No. 300.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on Consent Calendar 1. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar for today. Immediate roll call in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes; Consent Calendar. Senator Hartley; thank you.

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

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar

Total Number of Voting	36
Those Voting Yea	36
Those Voting Nay	0
Absent and Not Voting	0

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SENATE

334  
April 28, 2016

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. (Gavel)

Are there any points of personal privilege? Senator Leone. Senator Leone?

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Yes. Yes, Madam President, just for a purpose of an announcement?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

For just -- for the General Law Committee, we'll have a meeting for a referral 15 minutes prior to the start of the first session tomorrow. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you; so noted. Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. The Housing Committee will be meeting at 10:30 outside the House Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):



**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS  
PART 2  
469 – 1086**

**2016**

77  
mb/avg

March 7, 2016

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION 1:00 P.M.  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING

but there are situations where it may not be a nuance as well.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Representative Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH): And thank you for your testimony. I think we've well-earned our reputation on a difficult state in which to do business and be controversial or confrontational with our businesses as opposed to recognizing them as job creators and helping perhaps improve our economy. But I just really want to thank you and applaud you for this Rhode Island example.

I think the fiscal note is so important, but to also then have something that gives cognizance to the impact on businesses this is great and a far more thoughtful approach. I don't know if it's the exact proper approach than what exists so really I just want to thank you for bringing that to our attention.

ERIC BROWN: My pleasure, thank you.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Thank you and thank you all, again, for raising those bills. ( Mic off )

CAROL CARSON: Thank you. Good afternoon Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, and distinguished members of the committee. I'm Carol Carson. I'm the Executive Director of the Office of State Ethics.

I'm here today to testify in favor of three bills proposed by the Office of State Ethics. I've submitted written testimony on all of them and will not be repeating that testimony today. I note that none of these bills have a fiscal impact.

Priority one legislation of the Office of State Ethics is Senate Bill 361, an act revising the state

SB339  
SB361  
HB5229  
SB338

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING

code of ethics. This bill makes a number of necessary changes to the code of ethics and includes language that's responsive to discussions with our stake holders.

In sum, the bill provides clarity and consistency in the code of ethics for public officials and state employees, and the code for lobbyists. It amends certain definitions, clarifies restrictions imposed on the Citizens ethics advisory board, clarifies the authority of the board in the ethics enforcement officer and strengthens the enforcement of penalties.

It clarifies and makes consistent certain gift prohibitions. It also creates a reporting requirement for recipients under the gifts to the state provision. It extends the open and public process requirements to contracts with quasi-public agencies. It clarifies who may provide and accept payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses and the reporting of such expenses, and it extends certain prohibited activities to consultants and independent contractors of quasi-public agencies.

Finally, it repeals some provisions that are no longer in use. The written testimony for Senate Bill 361 includes an attachment that more comprehensively summarizes each of the sections. Senate Bill 338, an act concerning the filing of statements of financial interest has two purposes.

First, to extend the notification period the Office of State Ethics has to inform departing officials of their SFI filing obligations from 30 days to 60 days, and second to clarify other portions of the statute often found to be confusing to filers.



000960

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

*March 7, 2016*

*Statement of Carol Carson, Executive Director  
Office of State Ethics*

**Senate Bill 338 – *An Act Concerning the Filing of Statements of Financial Interest Under the  
State Code of Ethics for Public Officials***

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The Office of State Ethics provides testimony in support of *Senate Bill 338, An Act Concerning the Filing of Statements of Financial Interest Under the State Code of Ethics for Public Officials* which is an Office of State Ethics proposal that is on the Committee's agenda today.

The bill has two purposes; (1) to extend the notification time the Office of State Ethics has to inform departing officials of their SFI filing obligations from thirty days to sixty days, and (2) to clarify other portions of the statute often found to be confusing to filers.

With regard to the extension of time, when a public official departs state service the Office of State Ethics has thirty days to notify such official that he or she must file a SFI covering that portion of the year the official held such office or position. The Office of State Ethics does not become aware of an official's departure until so notified by his or her agency. As often occurs, the Office of State Ethics does not learn of the departure in time to provide notification. Thus, to facilitate this process, an extension to sixty days would be more fitting.

The raised bill clarifies the reporting of sources of income on the SFI. The filings that the Office of State Ethics has received, and the questions that SFI filers have submitted, point to considerable confusion regarding the disclosure of sources of income. SFI filers, in many instances, do not know what kind of description of the source of income to provide. For example, a filer who receives wages from company x or rent from a rental property often is not certain whether to describe the company and/or wages or the rental property and/or rent. In order to simplify the disclosure and eliminate any confusion, the bill requires identification of the source of income (i.e., name of employer, address or rental property, name of stock or name of trust) and the description of the type of income received (i.e., wages/salary, rent, dividends or interest).

The bill also clarifies the language concerning the reporting of similar business affiliations on SFIs. Because the current language regarding similar business affiliations has been a source of much misunderstanding, the bill restates the language to make disclosure requirements more clear.

Thank you for your consideration of our agency proposal.

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