

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 5
1368 - 1703**

kbk
SENATE

313
April 28, 2016

S.B. No. 261

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

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. (Gavel) Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 36, Calendar 226, S.B. No. 179, AN ACT
CONCERNING EDUCATION ISSUES; with amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good morning, Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG (14TH):

Good morning, Madam President. I move the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the
bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you
remark?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG (14TH):

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Yes. Madam President, the Clerk has in his possession LCO No. 5462. I'd ask that it be called and I be granted leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO No. 5462, Senate "A", offered by Senator Slossberg.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG (14TH):

Thank you. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Will you remark, ma'am?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG (14TH):

Yes. Madam President, this is a strike-all amendment that does a variety of different things.

It provides for a -- the creation of an exemplary veterans education program distinction to those local and regional boards of education that offer a program that recognizes the contributions of our veterans. It also requires the posting of the Careline number in our schools. In addition, it adds cancer awareness to our health curriculum and provides for a task force to review and streamline

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our policies and laws regarding school climate and bullying, and various and other sundry matters.

In addition, I would just state, if the Chamber would indulge me, and I understand that the hour is late. This bill has particular personal significance to me in the requirement that we add cancer awareness to our health curriculum.

In Milford, we lost a very wonderful friend and advocate, Mary Ann Wasil. Mary Ann, at the age of 39, found a lump; a lump that the radiologist told her was fine, nothing to worry about. But she found it and her instincts were that there was something wrong. And in fact, she did have Stage 2 invasive ductal carcinoma, breast cancer, and that was in 2004. But Mary Ann, the single mother of three children; two girls and a boy, wanted to make sure that her kids had the knowledge that she had, because her sister was an oncology nurse, and was aware of all of the things she needed to know that there was something wrong.

So, rather than being sad for her significant diagnosis, which she quite frankly never was sad, she was an incredibly happy person, she channeled her positive energy, and she founded the Get In Touch Foundation. And the Get In Touch Foundation provides -- it's a nonprofit organization that provides free information about breast self-examination to young women.

Despite all of her chemotherapy and her radiation, she traveled around the country, and around the world, to help spread the word and educate young women about how important it was to understand breast self-examination and know what it was.

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The last time I saw Mary Ann was a few months ago, and it was clear she had had a recurrence. I made her one last promise, and she asked if we would make sure that in Connecticut we taught all of our young men and young women to be aware of their bodies, and to know what they needed to know if there was something wrong and to ask.

I had hoped and asked her if she could try to hang on so we could pass this bill. But unfortunately, this past Saturday we said goodbye to Mary Ann. She was full of joy and full of life. She took a hard situation and made it really positive for all of us. Her motto was choose joy, choose life, and hope lives.

So, I realize the hour is late. I won't speak anymore. I just -- I wanted to make sure that her memory was recognized in the effort that is embodied in this bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. She was a wonderful woman. Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER (26TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to support this bill -- that amendment. It actually is a combination of a number of bills that were discussed during the Transportation Committee, and unlike some others where when you combine a number of bills, you can find things in there you like and some things that you really oppose.

This one pretty much is supportable all throughout, as was just mentioned, by our distinguished chairman

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of the Education Committee. It includes veterans' education. It includes the Careline that concerns child abuse and neglect in our schools. It includes cancer awareness, as was so eloquently discussed a few minutes ago, as well as a task force on bullying, which has been an issue with many questions that need to be answered, along with some special transportation provisions, and particularly a couple of towns that have problems that needed to be resolved, and this bill does go a long way to resolving them.

So, I thank the good Chairwoman for bringing this bill forward, and discussing it together, so that we can move this expeditiously along. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE (22ND):

I rise in support of this, Madam President. As you know, or you might know, that I run a nonprofit for breast cancer, and I understand the importance of all three measures to find breast cancer early, and I believe that that breast self-exam is one of the most important in making young ladies aware of their bodies.

But more importantly, men are often forgotten in this equation, that men can get breast cancer also, and the importance of knowing about testicular cancer, which also is part of the bill. So, I commend you for doing that and carrying this forward. It's a very important bill. Thank you.

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on Senate "A"?
Will you remark further on Senate "A"?

Let me try your minds. All those in favor of Senate
"A", please say Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? Senate "A" carries. Mary Ann is looking
down. Senator -- Senator Slossberg -- sorry.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG (14TH):

Thank you, Madam President. If there's no
objection, I'd ask that this item be placed on our
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar 372, S.B. No. 346, AN ACT
CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR EVASION OF RESPONSIBILITY
BY AN OPERATOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE CASE OF
INJURY OR DAMAGE. There's amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

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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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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**

**EDUCATION
PART 1
1 – 705**

**2016
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Testimony for SB 175, 5307, and 179.

Good Morning Education Committee Members,

My name is Anne Manuskay, Easton, CT and I am a parent, former school counselor, former research assistant in mental health, and currently an advocate for children's education.

In regard to SB 175 'An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Department of Education', SB 5307 'An Act Prohibiting the Unreasonable Delay in enrolling a Child in Kindergarten ', and SB 179 'An Act Concerning Education Issues'. My testimony includes issues which go to the concerns of these three bills.

Our CT Education Committee and CT General Assembly need to review a few things before making any decisions on what to "improve", and what points encroach on Unconstitutional issues in the Constitution State. The US Constitution provides for its citizens to have certain inalienable rights, and as Article 10 which provides The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, all remaining powers are reserved for the states or the people (US Constitution, and Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution).

The inalienable rights of parents are to raise their children as they may. For the past 40 years modifications to education and the encroachment over parent choices have eroded the freedoms of parents. In the past 10, since Common Core and its linked testing (Smarter Balanced, the test that has not been peer reviewed determining true validity and reliability. has come about parents have had more concerns as to what is really being taught in our schools, as well as tested, and data collected. The CT Education Committee would be wise to slowly investigate all three, for the real reason of education, examination and the need of data.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was decided to be null and void after Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into to law in December. This was to 'clean the slate' for states to provide their own design for education needs. The states taking the clean slate and not continuing to punish public schools by keeping provisions of the CT NCLB waiver, namely rating districts, and punishing the districts which have not met the 95% of tested students. Our people of CT want a education for education's sake, not a workforce, and determined by the people of CT.

I have great concerns in regard to public education issues of the past 25 years, included seeing my own children's public education reduction in many ways, including Common Core/CT Core increases in testing, and the data. Surreptitious data collection and now security for their future, which we here stories of breaches, and now in CA, the children's data being sold to third party vendors.

CT is at a very critical point. This is happening due to lack of jobs, high taxes and the downward spiral of public education- much in part to the push for high cost changes in each and every district, and the great push of Charters. Education' abuse' -- developmentally inappropriate Common Core curriculum in the early K-3 years, questions as to whether or not parents enroll their children in school. Parents have the right to make these choices. Taxpayers, on the hook for millions of dollars in the invalid Smarter Balanced and the costs of the unlawful interstate compact. Costs: Eight million dollars for the Smarter Balanced testing from 2013-2015, and the contracts with AIR for almost 18 million for the same period.

Our elected leaders, can be the force to change this -- and improve CT and its public education system, where people will be happy to have their children in the public schools, when education, is returned to proper developmental levels, children happily coming home from school, and parents not delaying enrollment.

Addenda:

1) A white paper from Dr. Mary Byrne, EdD , *Issues and Recommendations for Resolution of the General Assembly Regarding Validity and Reliability of the Smarter Balanced Assessments Scheduled for Missouri in Spring 2013.*
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/mary+byrne/14d78e6fc620c5bf?projector=1>

2) Email correspondence between myself, and CT Department of education staffer, in regard to the validation of the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The remark 'considers validity' stands out. There is a great deal of work to determine validity - whether a test measures what it is supposed to measure and whether it is then reliable - measuring consistently; repeat-ability. No peer review exists for this test instrument. Below:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Krisst, Abe" <Abe.Krisst@ct.gov>

Date: Jan 21, 2016 9:43 AM

Subject: Re: Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) validation; reliability of assessment device

To: "Anne Manusky" <annemanusky@gmail.com>

Cc:

Anne,

Thanks for your email. Please see the technical report cited below that considers validity.

http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/2013-14_Technical_Report.pdf

Thanks,

Abe

From: Anne Manusky <annemanusky@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 8:34 PM

To: Krisst, Abe

Subject: Fwd: Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) validation; reliability of assessment device

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Anne Manusky" <annemanusky@gmail.com<mailto:annemanusky@gmail.com>>

Date: Jan 20, 2016 4:30 PM

Subject: Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) validation; reliability of assessment device

To: <abekrisst@ct.gov<mailto:abekrisst@ct.gov>>

Cc:

Abe,

I am inquiring as to the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the validation to ascertain reliability of the testing instruments being used for state grade level testing. in CT.

Any and all information is requested, and E-mail copies preferred.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky

3) Sauer v. Nixon - MO lawsuit and judgement for the appeal to uphold lawsuit of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, in which the Court found "...is an unlawful interstate compact to which the US Congress has never consented..."

<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/mo-court-of-appeals/1718493.html>

In conclusion, It is my suggestion to the Education Committee to remove the Smarter Balanced Assessment until an actual valid test is reviewed by the state Board of Education for the quality of the test; quite possibly returning to the CMT's which had many years of data to determine validity, reliability as well as measuring strands of specific components taught at each grade level.

The Education Committee should look to their fiduciary responsibility in any and all of these issues -- especially in the current crisis financial state of CT.

Our state Department of Education needs time to 'clean the slate'. Cementing issues of NCLB into law will not improve education for our CT children.

Parents have the right to make decisions for their children. In parents knowing the facts here, and that Common Core, testing and data collection are used in the schools not to educate their children, but to use their children as research subjects, and with little choice; parents who choose education and freedom for their children will look to avoid public schools and find various ways of educating their children.