

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

**PA 16-35**

HB5327

Senate 1393-1399, 1699-1701 10

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2016**

**VOL. 59  
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SENATE

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April 28, 2016

On Page 9, Calendar 368, substitute for S.B. No. 394, AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATIONS RELATING TO VIRTUAL NET METERING FOR CERTAIN ZERO OR LOW-EMISSION GENERATION PROJECTS; and there are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Could we mark this item PT, please?

THE CHAIR:

Yes. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 10, Calendar 374, H.B. No. 5327, AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RESTORATION SERVICE PROVIDERS TO REGISTER AS HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS; there are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone, good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Good to see you today.

THE CHAIR:

It's good to be here.

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SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Yes, Madam President. This bill would expand the scope of home improvement registration providers, requiring anyone that would perform these types of services to register as contractors. This law would apply to work done on real property that is used, or designed to use, as a private residence, dwelling place or residential rental property.

As a result of that, they would also register with the Department of Consumer Protection, and pay their \$220 annual fee. And it would also avail homeowners the ability to utilize the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund if issues were to occur.

In addition to that, this was -- this came out as a result of some complaints where that was not -- ability to go after the -- to utilize the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund. And in discussion with the Committee, there was no opposition and plenty of support.

So, this will be a consumer-friendly bill, and I would hope we have support for it. And I want to

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thank my Ranking Member, and the rest of the Committee members, for their work on this.

But, Ms. Madam President, there is an amendment. The Clerk has LCO Amendment 4293. Will the Clerk please call so that I may seek to summarize?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CHAIR:

LCO No. 4293, Senate "A", offered by Senators Leone, Crisco, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam. I would move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Yes. So, this amendment -- and when this bill was being debated and passed in the House, it came to the attention of the Chair of our Committee, the good Representative -- Representative Baram, from the chairs of the Insurance, and other members of the Insurance Committee, that there was a potential conflict with current language that was overseeing

these type of entities that were not home contractors, of which if this amendment and this bill passed, they will become home contractors.

And so, there is language in here; because of the service that would be provided -- and this is really for emergency type of services. So, say there's a flood or a fire in a home, and you want someone to come in and fix your facility, currently we have the law that you can sign into a contract, and you have three days to waive moving forward with that.

This would allow the homeowner to -- to go into a contract; that they would make sure that they know all the information to the -- sign into this contract. They would waive that three days of being able to separate from the contract, so that the work can continue. So, this would be an upfront discussion that would the homeowner knowing that they would waive their rights, so they could in fact have the -- the repair being done by -- by this -- by these, which would now be, home contractors.

And also, because in the original insurance language, this was -- these same guidelines were in insurance because they were not home contractors. The new language here makes that fix so it is concurrent, and those insurance regs no longer will be necessary, due to the fact that they'll be into this amendment.

So, this amendment will just allow for those types of emergency situations to occur, with the express knowledge of the homeowner signing into that contract, waiving that three-day obligation.

With that, I am happy to answer any questions, and I would urge my colleagues for their support.

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THE CHAIR:

Sorry, will you remark? Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I do support the underlying bill, and I just have one question, if I may, to the proponent of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. While I understand the urgency of the -- the ability to waive the three-day rescission by a homeowner; because obviously, if their home has smoke damage or water damage, they want to get that repaired as quickly as possible. Kind of different than somebody who is looking to have a roof put on their home or an addition built onto the side.

With that said, this is limited to the three-day waiver only to a type of service that is done on an immediate basis, so they would begin immediately; not, an example I gave, somebody that's going to do window replacements or replacing a roof; the three-day rescission still would remain in place, is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

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Senator -- Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And thank you for that question. Through you, that would be my understanding as well.

And again, it's really for emergency purposes, not for normal purposes. It's not like when you buy a car or a refrigerator or an appliance where a service isn't actually done, and the money is expended that would be detrimental to the business providing the -- the service.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS (8TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And I want to thank the good Senator. I just wanted to make sure that was part of the legislative intent and on the record. And I support the amendment, as proposed. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further?

If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of Senate "A", please say Aye.

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Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? Senate "A" is adopted. Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you. With that, the amendment becomes part of the bill.

Again, this is a consumer-friendly bill, and I would urge my colleagues for their support. And if there is no objection, I would happy to be -- put it on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

On Page 12, Calendar 386, H.B. No. 5379, AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS FROM THE CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STATUTE.

THE CHAIR:

Sorry, Senator Flexer, good afternoon, ma'am.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

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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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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):