

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-62

HB5513

Senate	2699-2700, 2746-2747	4
Gov. Admin. & Elections	844-846, 1049-1050	5
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
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 8
2400 – 2750**

cf
Senate

255
May 3, 2016

Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 18, Calendar 498, Substitute for House Bill
Number 5313, AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN STATUTES
CONCERNING THE STATE COMPTROLLER. It's amended by
House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CHAIR:

I believe that's 5513.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

5513.

THE CHAIR:

It is. 5513.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, Madam President. I move acceptance of the
committee report, passage of the bill, and seek
leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Please continue.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Yes, this is the Controller's bill. I'm sorry. Again, this was unanimous in committee. It was unanimous in the House. The bill updates the statutes of the Connecticut State Employees campaign for charitable giving and assigns a deadline for review of all previous -- the previous year's campaign.

This is a major pool of money. It's voluntary contributed by the State Employees and basically run by them, through the Controller's office. It has a tremendous impact on many charities throughout the state. I would urge adoption of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH):

Seeing no comments, I'd ask it be placed on Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

In concurrence with the House, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page number 6, Calendar 384, House Bill Number 5393, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Cassano.

Senate Bill 351, on page 2, Calendar 157, Senate Bill 69. Page 4, Calendar 341, Senate Bill 328, page 5, Calendar 375, House Bill 5296, page 6, Calendar 384, House Bill 5393. Also on page 6, Calendar 383, House Bill 5430. On page 7, Calendar 385, House Bill 5254. Page 8, Calendar 393, House Bill 5255, page 11, Calendar 440, House Bill 5252. On page 14, Calendar 475, House Bill 5627, Page 15, Calendar 477, House Bill 5072. Page 18, Calendar 498, House Bill 5513, Page 19, Calendar 502, House Bill 5526. Page 20, Calendar 504, House Bill 5403. Page 22, Calendar 516, House Bill 3 -- I'm sorry -- 5358. Page 22, Calendar 519, House Bill 5053. On page 24, Calendar 533, House Bill 5605, Calendar 532, House Bill 5335, Calendar 530, House Bill 5498, and Calendar 534, House Bill 5621. On page 27, Calendar 549, House Bill 5416. Also on page 27, Calendar 546, House Bill 5571. Page 28, Calendar 552, House Bill 5180. On page 30, Calendar 563, House Bill 5412. Page 31, Calendar 567, House Bill 5537. Page 31, Calendar 569, House Bill 5620. On page 32, Calendar 571, House Bill 5435. Page 34, Calendar 583, House Bill 5400. On page 35, Calendar 586, House Bill 5521. Page 36, Calendar 169, Senate Bill 266. Page 37, Calendar 207, Senate Bill 327. Page 39, Calendar 361, Senate Bill 15. Page 41, Calendar 246, Senate Bill 88. Also on page 41, Calendar 464, House Joint Resolution Number 38. Calendar 465, House Joint Resolution 43. On page 42, Calendar 466, House Joint Resolution 99. Page 42, Calendar 467, House Joint Resolution 121. Also on page 42, Calendar 468, House Joint Resolution Number 133, and on page 43, Calendar 470, House Joint Resolution Number 136.

THE CHAIR:

cf
Senate

303
May 3, 2016

Okay. The clerk shall announce pendency of a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine is open. Please cast your vote.

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:

Have all members have voted? Have members have voted? Please check to see that your votes have been properly recorded. If so, the machine shall be closed and the clerk shall announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar is done. Senator Duff, for what reason do you rise?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Many reasons, Madam President, thank you. Madam President, I move that all items that require action

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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

2016

97
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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

March 7, 2016
1:00 P.M.

out here and have this, kind of, conversation about it. Thank you for your testimony.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Any other comments or questions? See none, thank you very much. I appreciate it.

MARY SCHWIND: Thank you.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Kevin Lembo and then Daniela Giordano.

KEVIN LEMBO: Good afternoon Senator, Representative Jutila, Representative Smith, members of the GAE Committee. Thank you. I just wanted to -- well, I want to say happy birthday of course and also let you know that listening to your hearing from my office and a lot of interesting things on the GAE Committees docket. So I was, like, oh that's interesting. That's interesting.

But I'm not going to testify but on one thing today and that's House Bill 5513. It's a concept that's come before you before in a slightly different iteration. The state employee campaign for charity giving is administrated through my office and it is a volunteer board that is appointed to do that work.

Though there's a very specific legal framework in the statute of how the board must do their work and they've done it pretty successfully for a long period of time; in the Office of State Comptroller since 94 and in a different form since the late 60s raising money among state employees in a United Way type fundraising drive for not for profits.

But the state of the art has changed as you would imagine. The best way to raise money has changed and the way the statute is presently written it imposes

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

a number of administrative levels that take more of any dollar donated to the campaign out for purposes of administration.

One of the ones that we wanted to talk about -- that I want to talk about to you today, and is outlined in this bill, is something called and I'm going -- The Principal Combined Fundraising Organization. I still have a hard time wrapping my head around that, but that's essentially the third party administrative that runs the campaign for the committee.

We are asking that we generalize the language a bit on who can be the PCFO and give the committee a little bit of latitude to choose another non-profit in Connecticut, a professional fundraiser, someone who would be able to run the plan for them, and realize additional savings.

What has happened over time is that fewer and fewer organizations could actually meet the statutory criteria for what that organization is and could be a problem if the one that we have now is no longer available. The committee sends out, on an annual basis, emails to non-profit organizations like United Ways and others that they think could run the plan, ask them to apply if they'd like to be considered, and they usually get down to one every year because that definition is so narrow.

So for the lack of competition, no choice for the committee, and other ways of doing business that might be more cost effective. We would ask if you'd consider that. The other two things about this bill that I'd like to call to your attention, or the changes at least, one is it set the deadline for

99
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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

March 7, 2016
1:00 P.M.

when the reporting of how the campaign is doing will be made to you and to the Governor.

And the third is to clarify the comptroller's role in all this because the committee itself cannot contract for the PCFO or for other things that they need. The comptroller does that. I do that for them. So to be clear about what my role is with them, I think, would be helpful when and if their trains ever go off the track.

They haven't so far, but we're trying to think about this ahead of time. So with that I'll close my comments. I've submitted written testimony. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Is there comments? In effect, this just brings us up to a modern age.

KEVIN LEMBO: I think it does.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Thank you.

KEVIN LEMBO: Thank you Senator.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Appreciate it. Daniela?

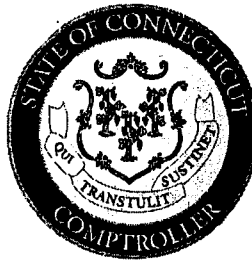
DANIELA GIORDANO: Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Daniela Giordano. I'm the Public Policy Director for NAMI Connecticut, National Alliance of Mental Illness, and we provide support, education, advocacy for individuals and family who deal with mental health conditions.

And I am here today to express our strong concern and opposition to House Bill 5499 and we specifically oppose the provision in section 2c of this bill as it would break the confidentiality

KEVIN LEMBO
STATE COMPTROLLER



MARTHA CARLSON
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
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**Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
March 7, 2016**

**Concerning
H.B. 5513 AA Revising Certain Statutes Concerning the State Comptroller**

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Thank you for raising H.B. 5513, AA Revising Certain Statutes Concerning the State Comptroller, and providing me an opportunity to present testimony on the need for this bill.

As you may be aware, the Connecticut State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC) is a once-a-year opportunity for Connecticut state employees and retirees to contribute through their workplace to organizations working to better their neighborhoods, state and world. For over two decades, Connecticut state employees and retirees have shown their heartfelt generosity, on average raising over \$1 million each year to make a difference.

Since the beginning of the CSEC, fundraising management practices have evolved, but the statute simply has not. The purpose of this bill is to clarify elements, including my role, of the CSEC to match what is current practice and allow for more administrative flexibility so that cost savings may be realized.

Specific changes that are the most substantial in this proposed bill are:

- (1) a change in the definition of "Principal Combined Fund-raising Organization" (PCFO) so that the administration of the CSEC can be updated to reflect current practice, to provide more flexibility and cost-effective options for the State Employee Campaign Committee (SECC) to manage the program as it is limited to only one option at this time; and
- (2) an insertion of a deadline for when the SECC has to submit a review of the previous year's CSEC to the Governor, General Assembly and Comptroller.

The other changes update and streamline the statutory language.

(more)

There is great potential to build a more robust CSEC that would not only benefit the non-profits that do the work that government cannot; but also increase the empowerment and pride of state employees whose energy and generous spirit make each campaign a success. This bill is a good first step in seizing that potential.

I urge and appreciate your support of this legislation. Thank you.