

## Legislative History for Connecticut Act

### PA 17-109

HB5077

House	2641-2657	17
Senate	2737, 2852-2854	4
		<b>21</b>

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

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2017**

**VOL.60  
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Representatives is voting by roll; members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Clerk to take a tally. And the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6219	
Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is passed. (Gavel)

Mr. Clerk, if you would kindly call Calendar 76.

THE CLERK:

On page four, calendar number 76, House Bill 5077, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETURN OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO PHARMACIES.

Favorable report a joint standing committee on general law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairman of the General Law Committee, Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the committee's joint favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Questions on acceptance and passage will you explain the bill, please sir.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a bill that allows voluntary participation by pharmacies in the return of unused prescription drugs.

Currently, we allow individuals to return unused prescription drugs to police stations but many have found it intimidating and many don't have a police station nearby.

So this is a bill that would expand that to pharmacies on a voluntary basis, not mandatory. Mr.

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Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment LCO 6804. I'd ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk is not in possession of that amendment. House will stand at ease.

House will come back to order. Now the Clerk is in possession of LCO number 6804 which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A". Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", LCO number 6804 offered by Representative Baram, Representative Rutigliano, Representative Smith, Representative D'Agostino.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

And was asked leave of the Chamber to summarize, Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment requires the Department of Consumer Protection to create regulations which would govern the apparatus where people would return these unused prescription drugs.

It requires that they comply with Federal law, that they specify the locations in the pharmacy where they're to be located, that there be monitoring and security systems in place and that they consult with the Department of Health and Pharmacy to determine the best protocol for installation of these facilities.

It also allows for cooperative agreements with the police departments and it limits the number of pharmacies that can participate to 50 annually so that it can be done within existing Department of Consumer Protection resources and there would be no adverse fiscal note.

I'd like to point out to my colleagues that this system has been utilized by many pharmacies around the nation. Walmart -- sorry, I'm sorry, Walgreen's has been one of the leaders in this. They have instituted it in some 35 states and 500 pharmacies and this has been a great opportunity for people to get rid of their drugs in a safe way.

It's been reported by many articles that by allowing these kinds of drop-off facilities in

pharmacies that people dispose of their unused prescriptions in an environmentally favorable way and secondly, it avoids medical issues where people keep used drugs in the household and perhaps succumb to their inclination when they're in pain or feeling depressed to use a prescription that has expired or is an addition to an existing prescription. So it's a good health measure as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would move adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Questions on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Gentleman from Trumbull, Representative Rutigliano.

REP. RUTIGLIANO (123RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to urge adoption of the amendment and reserve my comments for the bill. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you sir, on House Amendment Schedule "A", Representative Dubitsky.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Mr. Speaker, I pushed my button in error.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Happens to the best of us, Representative Dubitsky, very good. Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have some brief comments or brief questions for the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, sir. I noticed in the amendment that we are limiting this to 50 retail locations in the first year and if I may ask why.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Baram, do you care to respond?

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, this is to allow the Department of Consumer Protection to undertake the inspections with existing resources. Otherwise there would be a requirement that they have additional personnel.



So this will allow for transition of the program as pharmacies decide to voluntarily participate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the regulations are uniform, it's really in the inspection after the regulations are created that is of concern? Because we're expanding it one year later to 100. So I'm just questioning the resources.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, each pharmacy has a slightly different layout and in order to comply with the regulations as we anticipate, it will have to be in a secure location but accessible to patrons. There will have to be a monitoring system where it's in sight of the pharmacist or other workers in the pharmacy.

So there is an inspection ingredient required and also to make sure that the box itself complies with the specifications of these regulations.

DCP has had tremendous cutbacks in the last couple of years of staff and after a lot of consultation with them, they decided that they could probably handle and inspect about 50 pharmacies per year without having to bring on any new employees.

So the compromise, if you will, was to bring this program, roll it in under the 50 per year.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there, and I don't see contemplated in the bill, a plan to advertise the select 50 pharmacies of the many that we have in the state. I'm certainly in support of the program and would like utilization of the program but is there -- because I don't see that anywhere that DCP or someone else is going to be charged with or anticipates advertising.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that DCP is likely to put the locations on their website, number one, and number two, in reading about this program in other states, the pharmacies themselves advertise it because it's considered a very positive marketing aspect so I anticipate between the website and individual marketing, people will know about the locations and where to bring these unused drugs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you and I thank the good proponent of the bill for his answers to my questions and I do urge my colleagues to support this program. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir, Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, a few questions to the bill as it is amended.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Proceed, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, on the amendment as was just brought about by my good colleague here, Representative Fishbein, the 50 retail locations. The, of course we never know many people are gonna volunteer for this, it's not a mandate, it's a voluntary thing.

But if a lot of pharmacies take us up on this offer and do decide, then somebody would have to decide as to where the cutoff is gonna be as far as the 50 locations and who will that authority be? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding

that DCP will evaluate these requests to have such a drop-off facility and try and created an even distribution throughout the state so that you don't have three or four pharmacies in any one town doing this.

So that's part of their planning process, to try and come up with a protocol that will allow for some even distribution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you, Mr. Speaker, this unused and the disposal of the unused prescription drugs -- would they all be all in one as we visualize that, in just one container where all of these prescription drugs that have not been used be kind of dumped into?

Through you, Mr. Speaker, like we see that when we go to the police stations. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Baram.

REP. BARAM (15TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes it's my understanding it will be one drop-off box very similar to what you see in police stations.

Some of the pictures that I've seen in other states, they oftentimes look like a mailbox where you can drop it in but there's no way to retrieve it unless it's unlocked by the pharmacy and again, according to the regulations, there will be security cameras around and it has to be within eyeshot of the pharmacist or the employees working behind the pharmaceutical counter.

So yes, it will be one container and hopefully DCP will come up with some regulations to make these uniform and consistent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the proponent of the bill for bringing out this amendment and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm in strong support of the amendment because we do

definitely need that. We need easy accessibility for us to dispose of these drugs so they do not fall into wrong hands.

We do have resources but the more the resources we have as a state, the better off we are and I urge that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Gentlewoman from Fairfield, Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this legislation and I would also like to thank Representative Baram and Representative Rutigliano for their very hard work on this legislation, I think it's going to make a real difference in our communities and it really -- a convenience factor for when you're going to the drug store, you just bring your old medicine right there and I hope that it will have a huge improvement on our getting drugs out of -- old drugs -- out of people's medicine

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cabinets and make a difference, especially with the opioid addiction issue that we're having in the state.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you. Gentlewoman from Stamford, Representative Simmons. And she's not in the Chamber. Technology's great when it works.

Remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A".  
If not, let me try your minds; all those in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed nay, the ayes have it, the amendment is adopted. [GAVEL]

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?  
Now Representative Rutigliano.

REP. RUTIGLIANO (123RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a quick second and thank the good Chairman of the General Law Committee, the



Governor's Office and the Department of Consumer Protection and all the stakeholders that were willing to work on this bill.

We do really think it'll help people. Connecticut is only one of three states; Missouri, North Dakota and Connecticut are the only three states in the country that don't have private pharmacies that do drug collection. We do think this will be another tool in the toolbox of the arsenal against opioid addiction and other drug abuse and it also alleviates some environmental concerns.

So I urge all my colleagues to vote yes on the bill. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Gentleman from New Fairfield, Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wanted to chime in here and thank my good colleague and Chairman, Representative Baram and Representative Rutigliano on the hard work they did to bring the

bill in its current format to the floor of the House.

This, as we all know, there's a lot of folks out there, and kids especially, getting a hold of pills that are long expired or hanging around in our cabinet boxes and this is an impetus to allow those to be disposed of properly so I urge my colleagues to support it, I think it's certainly a bill in the right direction. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir, will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the house. Members, take your seats, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll;  
members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll; members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the

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members voted? All the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Clerk will take a tally. And Mr. Clerk, will you kindly announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5077 as amended by House A.

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	148
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	3

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is amended as passed. [GAVEL]

Mr. Clerk, Calendar 349, please, 359.

THE CLERK:

On page 30, Calendar number 349, substitute  
House Bill number 7207, AN ACT MAKING REVISIONS TO  
THE STUDENT DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2016.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Education.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Distinguished Chairman of the Education  
Committee, Representative Fleischmann.

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favorable report and passage of the bill and waive its reading and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Bye. The matter has been marked. Would you remark further? Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE (5TH):

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. It's really a pleasure to bring this bill out to the chamber. A bill that would equalize access to financial aid for all the students who pay into institutional financial aid and contribute to that fund. This bill passed our committee in a bipartisan manner. Our community and indeed, all of New England depends on immigrants and a highly educated work force to support economic growth.

I live in a community that has more than 70 languages spoken in its public schools, a community that values this influx of immigrants, and it thrives in part because of the families who moved to our community specifically for our diverse schools. I was particularly inspired on this bill by a young student from Hall High School in West Hartford. She's been up at the legislature many days urging us to pass this bill so that she'll be able to attend college.

It's not insignificant when it comes to this bill that both the leadership of UConn and the leadership of the Board of Regents too time to come testify and come lobby members on this bill to say this is important to them because they believe this makes their universities stronger and that students

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Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I apologize for that error and now Madam President if the Clerk can call the items on the Consent Calendar and followed by a vote please.

THE CHAIR:

We will stand at ease for two seconds. Well maybe a minute, got to get this all done.

Mr. Clerk, now will you start calling the, what's on the Consent Calendar please.

THE CLERK:

On page 8, Calendar 260, House Bill 5884; page 8, Calendar 259 House Bill 5583; also on page 8, Calendar 265 House Bill 7007; on page 14, Calendar 364 House Bill 7062; page 15, Calendar 370 House Bill 7002; page 16, Calendar 381 House Bill 7169; on page 17, Calendar 393 House Bill 7161; page 17, Calendar 395, House Bill 7230; page 18, Calendar 402 House Bill 7082; on page 18, Calendar 401 House Bill 7081; on page 18 Calendar 397 House Bill 7120; page 20 Calendar 413 House Bill 5764; on page 21, Calendar 416 House Bill 7243; also on page 21, Calendar 418 House Bill 6741; page 22, Calendar 432 House Bill 5077; page 23, Calendar 426 House Bill 7214; also on page 23, Calendar 437 House Bill 7284; page 25, Calendar 457 House Bill 7164; also on page 25, Calendar 455 House Bill 7102; page 26, Calendar 465 Senate Bill 1056; page 26, Calendar 471 House Bill 7032; on page 28, Calendar 482 House Bill 7194;

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on page 29, Calendar 486, House Bill 7020; page 29, Calendar 487 House Bill 7205; also on page 29, Calendar 488 House Bill 5554; page 30, Calendar 492 House Bill 7080; page 30, Calendar 493 House Bill 7132; page 32, Calendar 530 House Bill 7202; on page 32, Calendar 533 House Bill 7202; page 32, Calendar 532 House Bill 7198; page 32 again, 534 House Bill 7190; on page 33, Calendar 535 House Bill 7195; also on page 33, Calendar 536 House Bill 7311; page 33 again, Calendar 538 House Bill 5963; on page 34, Calendar 542 House Bill 6992; page 35, Calendar 551 House Bill 7013; on page 38 Calendar 562 House Bill 7263; on page 39, Calendar 567 House Bill 7312; page 48, Calendar 240 Senate Bill No. 966; also on page 48, Calendar 291 Senate Bill 644; page 50, Calendar 480 House Bill 7059; on page 51, Calendar 443 House Joint Resolution No. 63; and on page 51, Calendar 444 House Joint Resolution No. 67; page 51, Calendar 445 House Joint Resolution No. 3 and House Joint Resolution No. 74.

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THE CHAIR:

Do you want to repeat that back?

THE CLERK:

No.

THE CHAIR:

No? (Laughter and Gavel). At this time, I call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar and the machine is open.

THE CLERK:



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Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar for the day. Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members have voted the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On the Consent Calendar for today:

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

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar has passed. (Gavel)

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President, may we stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR: