

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 17-33

SB755

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REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, sir. Will the clerk please call
Calendar No. 524?

CLERK:

On Page 38, Calendar 524, Senate Bill No. 755,
AN ACT CONCERNING THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM OVERSIGHT. Favorable report of the Joint
Standing Committee on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Good morning, sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Let's see. I move for acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the
bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Steinberg, you have the floor sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. This bill is a very simple bill. It ends the existence of a sub-committee of MAPOC which as we know stands for the Council of Medical Assistant Programs Oversight. The sub-committee which is the Medical Assistant Programs Oversight Committee has done its job. It has made recommendations. It has issued a report, and the report has been posted on the MAPOC Connecticut site and we are ending the sub-committee for the work well done. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Will you remark further on this bill?
Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good to see you there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

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Likewise, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you Mr. Speaker, a few questions to the Chair on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg, prepare yourself for questions. Representative Srinivasan, you may proceed sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you Mr. Speaker, if the good Chair could just enumerate one more time the intent of this bill.

Through you Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of this bill is to end the existence of a sub-committee at MAPOC that had specific responsibility for making recommendations having to do with HUSKY A and HUSKY B. It has completed its work as required. It has

provided recommendations in a report, the report has been posted. Recommendations are being considered to be implemented, and therefore there is no longer -- bless you -- no longer a need for the sub-committee and this bill would end its existence.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you Mr. Speaker, what was the job that was described to this sub-committee? Through you Mr. Speaker, the sub-committee that we are now saying does not need to exist anymore.

Through you Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and that the good Representative for the question. This particular sub-committee was monitoring Medicaid Care Management initiatives, such areas of the enrollment process, the sufficiency of Medicaid provider rates

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and the benefits package for each of the affected programs. That was their mandate and purview, and that's what they made recommendations on.

Through you Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you Mr. Speaker, as I understand this and I want to thank the Good Chair for informing us in more detail. The purpose of this sub-committee was to make sure that we had cost savings on Medicaid. Was that the intent? Was that the purpose of this sub-committee?

Through you Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, that was one very important area under their purview, looking at rates and looking at the process. So, I would say yes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, cost savings is important. We all know that, and that was the charge that the sub-committee had. Along with that, Mr. Speaker, did this committee also have the charge of looking at best practices?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Through you, yes that is correct.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

So, through you, Mr. Speaker, so this sub-committee which is a part of the MAPOC that the Good Chair eluded to. The charge that the sub-committee had was to look; A, at best practices and B, at cost

savings. Through you, Mr. Speaker, was that the purpose of the sub-committee?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is a good summary of their main objectives.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do here is dissolve this sub-committee that was charged with making sure we constantly looked at A, cost savings and B, best practices. Through you, Mr. Speaker, are we trying to dissolve this sub-committee which was charged with, as I said, I want to make sure you heard that. I was a little distracted. I just wanted to make sure about that. Through you, Mr. Speaker, that the charge of this sub-committee was cost savings and best

practices, and that's the committee which we feel we do not need anymore.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I think the Good Representative is asking a good question in there. If I interpret it, he's perhaps concerned that by ending this sub-committee that we won't be looking at those things. That is not the case. There are other sub-committees such as the sub-committee on Access and Accountability which will continue to look at those things as we go forward.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if there are other sub-committees that are going to be looking into this then that is my concern, because the charge of this sub-committee was very critical, it was very

important in terms of cost savings, in terms of best practices, and we all know through you, Mr. Speaker, the economic crisis that our state is in right now, and the last thing we can do is make sure that we dissolve a committee that is looking primarily at cost savings. Through you, Mr. Speaker, is there another committee or a sub-committee, or who will be charged if this legislation were to move forward at looking at best practices and looking at cost savings.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, that is an excellent question and one that concerns me as well and I know it also concerned the MAPOC Executive Committee which is why they thought very carefully about ending the assignment for this sub-committee, but it was felt that the Access And Accountability Sub-Committee had sufficient purview to continue that work, and you can also be assured that the

MAPOC Broader Council will continue to make sure that those issues remain foremost in our consideration as we talk about all things Medicaid.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if MAPOC's Overview A and B other sub-committees are going to be looking into this charge. It is then my interpretation that cost savings and best practices are something that needs to be looked at and monitored closely and on an ongoing basis.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure I heard a question there, but I tend to agree with the Good Representative's sentiments.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if we all agree that cost savings and best practices will always be an ongoing issue for us, cause best practices in 2016 are different than best practices in 2018 and moving forward. Cost savings also is a changing field there and obviously we are very concerned with what is going to come down for us from Washington D.C. in terms of Medicaid, in terms of Medicaid reimbursements, in terms of block grants that we might be getting and how are we going to make sure that we continue to provide these Medicaid services. So, as I see all of that, which is a changing field and it's always moving, always changing, nothing fixed at all, why are we eliminating this sub-committee which is primarily charged and then saying some other committee whether it be MAPOC or other committee is going to be looking at these same issues?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I think that Representative raises a very important issue. The uncertainty at the federal level as to the future of Medicaid gives us all pause. In fact, this kind of uncertainty is very unsettling to all those who depend on Medicaid and on the broader insurance marketplace. I think this is something that we're gonna need to focus on going forward, but that very uncertainty caused him to question as to the explicit mandate of this sub-committee looking at HUSKY A and B, I would submit we don't know what the future of HUSKY A and B will be in the future depending upon what Washington decides to do. So again, this sub-committee had a very explicit, narrow mandate looking at HUSKY A and B and I think that we'd have to look into the future as to whether or not we might need to constitute a new sub-committee to look at whatever changes need to happen in response to what goes on the federal level.

So, I think it's a good question, but again this sub-committee with its explicit, narrow context doesn't need to exist. We will have to react to what goes on in Washington sometime in the future.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I definitely agree with my Good Chair that it is possible that this sub-committee does not need to exist. I get that. But my concern is, our primary concerns have not gone away and will never go away, in fact make it even more complex, maybe even more demanding depending on what is gonna happen as an impact on us from what happens down in D.C.

So, having said that, my concern is who is going to be charged A, with best practices and B, will cost savings, if we were to dissolve this sub-committee which was primarily charged with that?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I share the Good Representative's concerns. We do have the Access and Accountability Sub-Committee whose purview would certainly encompass this. There is the broader MAPOC Council's responsibility to always look at these issues, and I think that he raises a good point. I wouldn't be surprised if at some point next year when we know what's going on in Washington that we might need a sub-committee to look at whatever they're actually proposing. Right now, it's hard to create a mandate for a sub-committee not knowing what's gonna happen in Washington.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if we were not to dissolve this sub-committee knowing very well that the need for what the sub-committee does will never go away. The need will always be there constantly,

consistently looking at best practices and cost savings. So, what this committee does, obviously the need is there. So, if by eliminating this and requesting somebody else to be looking at it constantly, are we saving any dollars from a fiscal point of view? Is there a savings because of the fact that we are eliminating this sub-committee?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, another excellent question. Obviously when we eliminate a sub-committee, we eliminate it's need to meet and therefore the staffing responsible to making sure that they meet and have minutes and everything they may need, so I would imagine there's probably some modest savings in not having sub-committees, and I think it's our responsibility as a legislature to make sure that we don't have more meetings than we need, create more sub-committees or councils than we need. I daresay a task force. So, that this is

responsible government by constantly monitoring whether or not we need sub-committees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that there was no fiscal note that was going to be impacted, positively or negatively, and in this case positively in terms of a cost reduction by eliminating this sub-committee. This is my understanding and I did hear the Good Chair say that at the most we may have some modest savings. Through you, Mr. Speaker, could the Good Chairman share with us what would be the savings in terms of personnel time and if you could translate that maybe into dollars and cents for us.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you, the Good Representative gives me great credit for being able

to do the financial analysis. I should emphasize that the members of this sub-committee are all volunteers. So obviously they are not being compensated for their time. The staff that would service this sub-committee would then have bandwidth perhaps to do other functions. So, there may not be anything that we could put a dollar and cents amount on, but as I said it's good government to end sub-committees that no longer have purpose. So, I don't know if I answered his question precisely. There may not be a dollars and cents number we can put on it. It's another one of our voluntary sub-committees and it's just good practice for us to consider whether it's necessary.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the Good Chair for expanding on the financial component of that, and I do understand that the council members in the serving of the sub-committee

are all serving in a voluntary basis so there's no compensation there. Staff time, obviously, you can never calculate precisely as to what you know the staff time spent in A, spent time in B, it's a sum total of all the charges that they have. So, I do get that. Then from a staff point of view, it is almost impossible to say what the cost savings are going to be. But to me, I don't see any cost savings from a staff point of view, not from the voluntary part, but from a staff point of view. Cause if I do remember clearly the Good Chair telling us that these services in best practices, these services in terms of cost savings, if not done by the sub-committee, somebody else will be doing that. Somebody else has to be monitoring that on an ongoing basis. So, does the Good Chair feel, through you Mr. Speaker, that best practices and cost savings for the time being since we already have a report and the report is up on the Web and everything else, does not need to be monitored for a certain period of time?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question. I think it has had a certain period of time to get responses to the report, and as I've stated previously I do believe that there is ongoing monitoring by MAPOC, either through its broad council or through the Access and Accountability Sub-Committee. So, I'm confident that that oversight is being addressed in the fashion that the Good Representative suggested.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if we dissolve the sub-committee, the staff I get that you know they could be re-directed to do something else and some of the people will constantly be monitoring though perhaps not as closely as those two important components that I've talked about over and over

again in the last ten minutes on what would be important for us to monitor. But in terms of committee when we dissolve this committee, how many of these members are we reducing the overall council by?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Through you, it's a good question. I believe there are six volunteer members of this sub-committee at this time. I'm sure all of them have other roles perhaps through MAPOC more broadly, and they are all very committed to the cause and I'm sure will remain involved even if the sub-committee doesn't exist.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, if the need arises or if we as a body feel that these two important parts that we need to monitor on an

ongoing basis and if this charge has been taken away from the sub-committee, given to somebody else, but obviously they are not going to monitoring it as closely because they already have other responsibilities, this is an added responsibility. Does the Good Chair feel that we would be able to bring back this sub-committee without having to go through a legislative process? If the need is there?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, another excellent question. Yes, I think that MAPOC has demonstrated its flexibility in reacting to changes going on particularly in the Medicaid sphere which is a fast-changing landscape and has been able to address on an ad hoc basis through one or more of its sub-committees changes as they go on, while we might entertain a legislative creation of a new sub-committee based upon new information. So, I think

that is exactly the process that's likely to occur should circumstances change and we expect circumstances to change.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, do we have a report from either MAPOC or any of the other sub-committees that they are willing to take on this added responsibility of cost savings and best practices?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you, yes we would not have entertaining the sub-committee the MAPOC Executive Committee considered it very carefully to make sure that there would be no gaps, nothing lost and that is the reason why we've reached this point.

Through you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

So, through you Mr. Speaker, if this legislation were to move forward and signed and go on and on, if this sub-committee is dissolved because we really feel that they have done as the Good Chair said, their job is being done, their recommendations are up for all of us to review for the committees to review, and then act upon that. Through you, Mr. Speaker, is the Chair concerned at all that the basic functions of this sub-committee will be adequately discharged by the other committees?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Mr. Speaker, through you, no I do not have that concern.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Good Chair for answering all of these concerns that I just raised, and typically as you could imagine Mr. Speaker on this side of the aisle, we always want less endowment, less the better because we obviously have an intended purpose.

So, it is a unique situation that we are standing right here morning that has now become afternoon you know when we started this debate, where my good counterpart my Chairman is requesting or suggesting that we do not need this sub-committee and I'm here on the other side of the aisle concerned about dissolving this sub-committee. You know as you can imagine, and I can see from the wonderful smile on your face you are amused at this yourself as in a way I am, but I am concerned and I want to share the concern with the legislature not in this legislation. Not in the fact that we can dissolve this sub-committee. I get that. I have no problems with that at all. There is no significant

cost factor, which is a good thing. We could have, at best, a cost savings which is phenomenal.

So, all in all, it is the right thing to do to dissolve this sub-committee, but my only concern and I will always be concerned about that is that as you can imagine Mr. Speaker medicine, you know what was good yesterday is not good today and is definitely not gonna be good tomorrow. And Medicaid and the eligibility, the affordability and the landscape that we have in terms of who's going to be eligible, what are the criteria, is there fraud in the system, is it being abused, is there being excessive use, are all big concerns for you, for me, for the entire state because at the end of the day it comes out of our state budget and as you know Mr. Speaker it's a huge part of our state budget which we are having significant difficulties in trying to balance.

So, for me, Medicaid oversight is important from two angles; A in making sure that those services are available for those in our society that depend on them. That's extremely important. We know, Mr. Speaker that Medicaid coverage is getting

more and more difficult. Physicians accepting Medicaid are reducing. Specialists especially, we find that they're not participating because of the reimbursement rates.

So in fairness to everybody, you have the healthcare providers that have their concerns, we have the patients that need to be adequately provided as far as the services are concerned, and so to me the monitoring of the services, monitoring of the best practices so there is no abuse, there is no excessive usage and at the same time it is available, those services are available which is very critical, is an ongoing issue and whether the report is filed in 2016 or maybe this year in 2017 is a good thing, but this needs to be monitored ongoing constantly and consistently. And for me, my big concern is MAPOC without the sub-committee which was primarily charged with best practices and cost savings, who will take over that mantle? Who will take over the responsibility and ensure that both those important components are always watched constantly and consistently.

I will be listening to this debate as it moves on the floor of the House. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Good Chair for his indulgence and for answering all of these multiple concerns that I have, which he shares them too. I definitely get that. We are together in this goal, his goal, my goal, our common goal in the legislature is very simple; to make sure that the best practices are followed and we have cost savings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd district, Meriden.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Good morning, Mr. Speaker, oh it's afternoon already. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Good afternoon.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Mr. Speaker I rise in support of this legislation and I would just like to thank my colleague from the other side of the aisle for his

questions, and I think that I can give some clarity to why we believe that we don't need this sub-committee anymore. I am currently the co-chair of the Medicaid Oversight Council. The Oversight Council is made up of legislators and providers and advocates throughout the state of Connecticut. Through that process, we have five sub-committees. We've been looking at trying to be more effective with our sub-committees and that's why we felt it was important that this sub-committee be combined with another subcommittee. We have two sub-committees that can look at some of the costs that we pay as a state. One is the Quality and Access Committee and one is the PCMH which is the Care Management which has been looking at rates. So, I believe that this legislation is very important that we do not need this sub-committee anymore. I will say that we are very concerned with what's gonna happen from the federal government, especially around Medicaid, and we are lucky in this state that our Medicaid Director, Kate McEvoy, is also the Vice President of the national organization. We meet

monthly as a council and we get updates monthly as to what's going on through the federal government and some of the concerns that all of the directors have.

So, I urge my colleagues to support this. I think that all of my colleague-on-the-other-side-of-the-aisle's issues will be addressed through the sub-committees. He is actually a member of the MAPOC Oversight Council. He is more than welcome to come to the meetings and voice his concerns, and actually add items to the agenda if he has anything in particular. So, I urge my colleagues to adopt this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, good madam. Representative Petit of the 22nd district.

REP. PETIT (22ND):

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Question for the proponent of the bill sir?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg, prepare yourself for question. Representative Petit, you may proceed sir.

REP. PETIT (22ND):

For the Good Co-Chair and my colleague on Public Health, I am wondering if there are concerns about the change in the makeup of committee members, cause as I understand it the sub-committee that we are losing including the Child Advocate or designee, a family or child advocate, etc., people involved with developmental disabilities. So, I am wondering if the change in the makeup raises any concerns for the proponent.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the Good Representative for an excellent question. As is often the case with sub-committees, they are members of the broader council itself so we're not losing their expertise or their input. They will remain

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involved, it's just that they won't serve on this specific sub-committee.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Petit.

REP. PETIT (22ND):

I thank you for that answer and I think that was the only question I had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Good to see you again Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Klarides-Ditria of the 105th.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just have a few questions for the Good Co-Chair and the proponent of the bill. Through you, Mr. Speaker, how long was this sub-committee, how long were they formed? A year?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't know the exact time. Certainly, I think more than a year in its entire existence. Probably closer to two to three years, so they've had plenty of opportunity to do their work and to come up with their recommendations.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Ditria.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Did the sub-committee fulfill their charge?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes they did.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Ditria.

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REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Did the sub-committee feel they needed additional time to fulfill their charge?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my understanding, there was no pressure on them to issue their recommendations. They did so when they were ready, and that's why we have their report.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Ditria.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Did they achieve cost savings with this sub-committee?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it may be premature to point to explicit cost savings. They made recommendations, which are obviously being considered and I'm sure in some cases implemented, but I can't point to specific savings as of this time.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Ditria.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

And do you feel the sub-committee was adequately represented?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An excellent question. I think that we had the luxury on the MAPOC Council of selecting the most appropriate people to serve on this sub-committee and I think that if you look at the six different members they represent an interesting cross section of expertise. So, yes, I

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would say that we had the right people on this sub-committee.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Ditria.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Mr. Speaker, as I serve on the Public Health Committee would like to thank the Good Representative and the proponent of this bill for the hard work and time he put into this as well as the sub-committee. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, madam. Representative Fishbein of the 90th district.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

I too have some questions for the proponent if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

You may proceed, sir.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, sir. The need for the sub-committee to begin with, where there deficiencies that the good work of this sub-committee was sought to fill?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, an excellent question. Obviously as I said earlier, Medicaid has been a bit of a moving landscape. There are constantly changes to requirements and Connecticut is justly proud of its HUSKY A and HUSKY B programs, so we wanted to make sure we are on top of recent changes that would occur at that level. I am not sure whether there was a specific stimulating event to create this sub-committee, but its charge was explicitly to look at the HUSKY A and B programs as it relates to rates and process, and we felt it was timely to give it that kind of focus.

Through you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Good Proponent of the bill know how many reports, perhaps, the sub-committee has rendered understanding that the first report was supposed to come out by January 1, 2015?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if there were any really final reports beyond the report that we posted, but I am sure there were interim reports and information provided back to MAPOC so that MAPOC would know how they were doing, but their work product, if you will, is the recommendation report that is on the website.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Fishbein.

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REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I know that the Good Proponent of the bill was asked when this subcommittee was originally founded or the legislation passed, and I know he didn't have that information, but I am of the understanding that at least at the time of the passage it was anticipated that this would be an ongoing situation given that the language called for annual recommendations. And if I could ask, through you Mr. Speaker, if the proponent knows why the legislature at that time thought that this should be an ongoing situation?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know specifically. Perhaps at that time we were under the assumption that the Affordable Care Act would remain, the Healthcare Law of the Land and that we would just be dealing with that. Perhaps at this point we recognize that the landscape is changing

and its impact on HUSKY A and B are such that we're uncertain as to what that would be going forward. So, there may have been an assumption of steady state and ongoing previously. Perhaps that situation no longer obtains.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that the overall legislation calls for another standing sub-committee of the council of Medical Assistance Program Oversight and that has to do with complex healthcare needs. If the Good Proponent of the bill knows, is that sub-committee still in operation?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Yes that is so.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

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Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it anticipated that sub-committee also dealt with in this legislation will in the near future also be going away?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, no not to my knowledge.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you. And the sub-committee that we are dealing with here today, is it my understanding that their recommendations have been implemented via statute or regulation, or they are merely under consideration at this time?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

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Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An excellent question. I am not exactly sure whether or not much of it has been implemented. Obviously, these recommendations have to be very seriously considered and brought up with the agencies themselves, so I couldn't give you an answer as to how many have been implemented at this time.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we are dealing with a very important area of you know coverage health insurance, certainly health insurance coverage for the underprivileged and the poor, and I think that we should tread very lightly here when we get rid of sub-committees. I think I am in favor of this given what I've heard, and I thank the speaker for allowing me to ask the proponent the questions here today. So, thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, sir. Representative McCarty of the 38th district. Good afternoon, madam.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Good afternoon and thank you Mr. Speaker. Just a comment and then a few questions to the proponent of the bill, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

You may proceed, madam.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would just like to point out that I think that this Medicaid Oversight Council was an excellent idea to begin with that we know that we really need to look to our cost efficiencies and to all that we possibly can do to help our citizens here in the state to achieve the best healthcare we can and Medicaid plays such an important and integral role in that provision. So, with that, I did appreciate hearing that the members of this council will still be included as we move forward with looking at Medicaid cost efficiencies and savings, particularly looking at

the Home Care Provision, nursing home, looking with individuals with disabilities and including which many times are left out the superintendent of schools and the education piece. But my question through you Mr. Speaker to the proponent of the bill, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

You may proceed, madam.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you. I'm concerned with all of the good work that the council has achieved and looking at all of the best practices, cost efficiencies, can you please explain to me how we actually will get that information out to our citizens in Connecticut to those that this oversight council looking for the recommendations? How that will be effectuated?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, an excellent question. Obviously, that's one of the reasons why we felt it was important to post the

report of the recommendations on the MAPOC Website so that anybody who is interested in their deliberations or the recommendations can see so directly. Obviously, the agencies involved as they implement programs need to make sure all those effected are made aware of those changes. So, I think that the process that's been in place for changes as it relates to Medicaid and particularly HUSKY A and B should be sufficient to make sure those who are affected are aware of any changes that will be implemented.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative McCarty.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But my question may go somewhat deeper. How would the person in the public know to get onto the website? Have there been any activities, outreach to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

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REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, again that is a good further drilling down. It's important to note that many of the members of MAPOC come from the community themselves. They are community organizers, they are people who are involved with the impact of Medicaid, and really at the grassroots level, so we depend on them as well to make sure the information gets out to the affected populations and that has been effective in the past.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative McCarty.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And then just one final question if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Please proceed.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Thank you. As we move forward then with the oversight council, there will continually be annual

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reports it's just that this committee is consolidated, if I heard that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, yes, I like the Good Representative terms "consolidated" or merged. Nothing is being lost here. The focus remains important to everybody who's involved with MAPOC and we have every confidence that we will be able to move forward with the appropriate oversight.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Representative McCarty.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

I appreciate that answer. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MORRIS (140TH):

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further on this bill? If not, will staff and guests please come to the

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well of the House? Will the members please take
your seats? The machine will be open. (Ringing)

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 RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members
voted? Will the members please check the board to
determine if their vote is properly cast? If all
the members have voted, the machine will be locked
and the clerk will take a tally. The clerk will
announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 755 in concurrence with the Senate.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

(Gavel) Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative O'Dea of the 125th, sir do you have something to say?

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. Good seeing you up there. I stand for the purpose of an introduction if I may, sir?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing with me is Win Everets, the Executive Director of ARC Connecticut, and Holly Buckley, both of New Canaan and both parents of children with intellectual development disabilities. These two people are amazing, amazing individuals. Mr. Everets has educated me immensely on those most in need and I would ask my colleagues to please consider the First Choice Program and the Day Employment Program in the budget when we look at it because those populations are the most in need. So, I would ask the Chamber

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Thank you, Madam President. I move that all items on Senate Agenda No. 1 dated Wednesday, May 17, 2017, be acted upon as indicated, that the Agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to mark items on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please continue.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 2, calendar 49, Senate Bill 755, I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered without objection.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 10, calendar 160, Senate Bill 723, I'd like to mark that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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CLERK:

On page 2, calendar 49, Senate Bill No. 755. Page 3, calendar 91, Senate Bill 136. Page 6, calendar 123, Senate Bill 916. Page 9, calendar 145, Senate Bill 24. On page 10, calendar 160, Senate Bill 723. Also on page 10, calendar 167, Senate Bill 911. Page 10, calendar 170, Senate Bill 928. Page 13, calendar 199, Senate Bill 948. On page 14, 204, Senate Bill 41, and calendar 202, Senate Bill 923. On page 17, calendar 229, Senate Bill No. 962. On page 18, calendar 230, Senate Bill 963. On page 23, calendar 280, Senate Bill 954. On page 24, calendar 285, Senate Bill 983. Page 25, calendar 292, Senate Bill 377, and calendar 293, Senate Bill 922. On page 28, calendar 319, Senate Bill 887. Also on page 28, calendar 317, Senate Bill 1030. On page 33, calendar 354, Senate Bill 817. On page 34, calendar 362, Senate Bill 1045. On page 38, calendar 389, Senate Bill 980. On page 45, calendar 429, House Bill 6520. On page 51, calendar 75, Senate Bill 811. Also on page 51, calendar 111, Senate Bill 485. On page 55, calendar 154, Senate Joint Resolution No. 38, and on page 55, calendar 99, Senate Joint Resolution No. 25.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote on the first Consent -- Consent Calendar?

CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call on today's first Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

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THE CHAIR:

All members have voted. All members have voted.
The machine will be closed. Excuse me. Hold on.
It's the Consent Calendar. I'm sorry, the machine
is closed.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. There was a Bill
mistakenly put on the Consent Calendar and if we can
have a re-vote of the Consent Calendar --

THE CHAIR:

You want to reconsider your vote, sir? Since you
were on the --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I was on the prevailing side.

THE CHAIR:

Prevailing side, right.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Though not a mistake of any of the -- any of the
Senators, a vote -- a Bill was put on the Consent
Calendar so we need to re-vote the Consent Calendar,
please.

THE CHAIR:

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First --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Reconsider --

THE CHAIR:

Reconsider. So I can ask for a voice vote on reconsidering the Consent Calendar. All those in favor? [Ayes voiced]. Opposed? Motion carries. At this time --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

I probably should mention which Bill that was we're taking off.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, that would be a great idea, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Senate, stand at ease for a moment.

THE CHAIR:

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Senate will stand at ease.

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. The offending Bill was calendar page 13, calendar 199, Senate Bill 948.

THE CHAIR:

At this time that Bill will be removed without objection. Seeing no objection, at this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the first Consent Calendar again? Machine is open.

CLERK:

~~Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.~~
Immediate roll call on the real Consent Calendar No. 1 for today.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Suzio. Senator Suzio. Senator Kennedy. Senator Kennedy. Vote please. Thank you. Senator Fasano. We haven't gotten them all yet, sorry. Thank you, Senator Miner.

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

CLERK:

On the real Consent Calendar No. 1 for today.

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Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

And this time it passes. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for some referrals please and other markings?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On calendar page 4, calendar 105, Senate Bill 769, I'd like to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On calendar page 7, calendar 124, Senate Bill 917, I'd like to refer that item to the Judiciary Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.