

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 17-4
JuneSS

SB1503

House	9141-9148	8
Senate	3473-3476	4
		12

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

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please call Emergency Certified Senate Bill 1503?

CLERK:

Emergency Certification Senate Bill No. 1503 -

AN ACT MAKING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE
STATE BUDGET IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Walker, it's so good to see you
back in the Chamber. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move
passage of Emergency Certified Bill 1503.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on the
passage of the bill. Will you remark?
Representative Walker.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move passage.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, madam. Will you remark
further? Will you remark further? Hearing none,
members please take your seats. The machine will be

-- oh -- Representative Winkler of the 56th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk for a minute about the handling of the Renter's Rebate Program. I am grateful that the economically disadvantaged, elderly and poor will be receiving the same amount in their benefits and I'm grateful that we're moving away from the towns being 100 percent responsible from the program. But we're still dropping \$8.5 million dollars on towns that are four and a half months into their budget. My Town of Vernon is going to have to pay \$144 thousand dollars. That doesn't seem like much, but in Vernon we budget very tightly. We deliberately underfund line items, know that somehow we won't have to spend money or we won't be able to spend money in some other account.

We discuss heatedly budget expenditures of less than \$1,000 dollars, and this is \$144 thousand dollars. To get the money, OPM is going to claw back from grants we give the towns the money they

need to fund half the Renter's Rebate Program. That means that towns will never know how much money they actually have in any of these line items because OPM has no direction from us whatsoever about what accounts to pull the money from, what grants to pull the money from. And accounting will become very complex in a situation where things change on the fly. I know we want to get out of here. I know that if we don't get out of here today, Channel 3 will keep its clocking counting because it's good television to ridicule the Chamber. But the budget crisis is over. This is housekeeping and we could do the housekeeping correctly if we wanted to.

I also know that the Senate would have to come back into session if we changed anything in this bill. And I want everybody to know I'm giving that exactly the amount of consideration it deserves. So I'm going to vote against this, because allowing OPM to claw back \$8.5 million dollars from grants to the towns is a bad precedent to set. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Johnson of the 49th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to say that I agree with my colleague here and I am very, very concerned about the fact that districts like mine, districts like my colleague's here are gonna be paying a lot more for Renter's Rebate than the rest of the state. Proportionately, we pay more. We have, in my district, the highest percentage of public housing and subsidized housing than any other place in this state on a per capita basis than Hartford. So we are going to have a situation where we're one of the poorest districts.

We provide services to Eastern Connecticut State University in terms of fire service. We provide services in terms of student housing that's off campus. We provide services to the entire region. There's no other place in eastern Connecticut that has more public housing than Willmantic and Windham. And so for that, I am quite upset by the fact that we don't have a proportional

cost sharing going on here. Having it capped at \$250 thousand dollars creates a situation where my district has to pay proportionately more than any please else, perhaps, in the state. So I am registering my disagreement with this. I hope to work with my colleagues here in the House next session to remedy this situation. And for those reasons, I will vote in the affirmative, but if we don't do something about this, you won't have my vote next time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ziobron of the 34th District, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ZIOBRON (34TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. I wasn't planning on getting up and speaking today and had a very good conversation with the Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee about some of the concerns of this deal. But after hearing some of the comments from my colleagues just now, I have no choice but to get up. Making statements in this Chamber that the budget crisis is over is not true.

We know that the budget we just passed has out-year deficits of over \$4 billion dollars. Tough choices were made in order for us to close this deficit of \$5 billion dollars, and certainly the Renter's Rebate Program was one of them. But just one, out of dozens and dozens of cuts, like the Medicare Savings Program and other issues. But the reality that my colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle will be facing in the next session will still be dealing with this budget, because we're in deficit right now according to the revenue consensus numbers.

So, Mr. Speaker, I take my role very seriously. I want to make sure that my colleagues on this side of the aisle know that we have more tough decisions to make and we're gonna do that together. But let's be honest about the fiscal climate of this state. And to make a statement in this Chamber that our fiscal crisis is over is not accurate, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to working with you and leadership as we try to solve the problems of our future. Because it's gonna take all of us, all hands on deck, to

prioritize taxpayer spending. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will staff and guests please come to the well
of the House? Members take your seats. The machine
will be opened. (Bell)

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.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Have all the members voted? Have all the
members voted? If all the members have voted,
please check the board to ensure your vote has been
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 No. 1503 in concurrence with the
Senate,

Total number Voting 135

Necessary for Passage	68
Those voting Yea	123
Those voting Nay	12
Those absent and not Voting	15

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

We've been in a lot this session, so I've assisted the -- requested the help of my assistant to bang the gavel. (Gavel) The bill passes.
(Applause) Representative Ritter of the 1st District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we immediately transmit Senate Bill 1503 to the Governor.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Without objection, so ordered. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Slap of the 19th District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SLAP (19TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Who would've thought when Avon Middle School booked its trip to the Capitol for this day in November that they would be

jmf
Senate

2
November 14, 2017

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Duff, you have the floor, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good morning. Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CHAIR:

Will the Clerk please call Senate Agenda one and Senate Agenda two?

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas number one and two, both dated Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff, you have the floor.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move all items on Senate Agendas one and two, dated November 4, 2017, be acted upon as indicated and that the agendas be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and the Senate transcript. Would the Clerk now please call Emergency Certified Bill 1503?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

jmf
Senate

3
November 14, 2017

Senate Bill No. 1503 - AN ACT MAKING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE STATE BUDGET AND RELATED IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019. LCO No. 10521, introduced by Senators Looney, Duff, Fasano, Witkos, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. Senator Osten, you have the floor, madam.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the emergency certification and ask leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

You may proceed, madam.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Madam President, this Senate Bill 1503 makes minor and technical changes to the state budget that recently passed on a bipartisan basis, and it has been essentially agreed to on a bipartisan -- this emergency certification with its technical changes in a variety of different levels has been agreed upon by all four caucuses and the administration, and I urge my colleagues to support this Emergency Certified Bill.

THE CHAIR:

jmf
Senate

4
November 14, 2017

Thank you, Senator Osten. Will you remark? Will you remark?

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

I would ask for a roll call vote.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, if you could announce the pendency of a roll call vote, sir.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you announce the tally please?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 1503.

Total number voting	34
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. (Gavel) Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

jmf
Senate

5

November 14, 2017

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move for immediate transmittal of Senate Bill 1503 to the House please.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered sir. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, on another technicality, I make a motion to reconsider Senate Bill 1502, section 1, line T411, page 13, which states that there's an appropriated \$598,440,138 million dollars in fiscal year 2018 for hospital supplement payments and \$496,340,138 million dollars in fiscal year 2019 for hospital supplemental payments. And I was on the prevailing side of that. That, for folks, is the line item veto, and for us to reconsider it. I would ask for a no vote, as a voice vote, for that, so we don't have to come in in a veto session next week and we can finish our business today. Thank you, Madam President. I ask again for a no vote on a voice vote.

THE CHAIR:

This will be a -- anyone else? Seeing none. All those in favor of the question, please vote no. Say no.

SENATORS:

No.

THE CHAIR: