

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 17-61

SB246

House	6445-6456	12
Senate	1705-1712, 1887-1888	10
		22

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

Connecticut State Library
Compiled 2018

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2017**

**VOL.60
PART 15
6255-6583**

cmw
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

349
June 3, 2017

Those voting Nay 1

Those absent and not voting 4

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The bill as amended passes. (Gavel) Will the
Clerk please call calendar number 589?

CLERK:

On page 36, calendar 589, substitute Senate
bill number 246, AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE
WAITING LIST FOR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT FOR PERSONS
WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.
Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on
Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Steinberg of the 136th, you have
the floor, sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Good evening again, Mr. Speaker, I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report
and passage of the bill in concurrence with the
Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Questions on 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, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad we're getting a chance to run this bill this evening. It's a matter of great concern to families across the state of Connecticut with loved ones with disabilities.

It addresses one of the primary issues that they face which relates to the waiting list which is notorious in and of itself.

Before I get into greater details, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 7660. I ask the Clerk to call the amendment and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Will the Clerk call LCO number 7660 which will be designated Senate Amendment "A".

CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "A", LCO number 7660
offered by Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers,
Senator Fasano.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber
to summarize the amendment. Is there any objection?
Is there any objection? Hearing none, please
proceed.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill, this
amendment furthers the underlying bill by making
various changes affecting the Department of
Developmental Services and individuals with
intellectual disabilities.

Under current practice, the bill requires the
DDS commissioner to maintain one statewide
comprehensive residential waiting list for
individuals with intellectual disability and update
it at least quarterly.

The legislation would make a number of changes
with regard to this. Starting August 1st of 2018,

and in consultation with individual, with the individual and his or her legal representative, they must annually assess the future residential funding or service needs of individuals.

And by December of '18, annually review the residential waiting list with the DDS regional advisory.

It also, the bill also requires the DDS Commissioner in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management, Secretary and Social Services Commissioner to organize and participate in an intellectual disability partnership. This is a particularly important aspect of the amendment in that it makes sure that the families and other interested parties are directly involved with this decision-making process.

This is critically important as we move forward. It's an important innovation in the way that we work with the people in our community with disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and represents a real triumph in the negotiation between

all the parties involved.

It also changes the nomenclature, if you will, with regard to the waiting list which is also notorious and hopefully provides greater clarity as to what being on the list means and what expectations one might have for being on the list.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Question before the Chamber on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark further on the amendment? Representative Ferraro of the 117th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. FERRARO (117TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this bill. This bill came out last year, it cleared the House. For some reason in the final condition in the Senate, a lot of this language was stripped so it's fantastic to see it back. I urge my colleagues to vote this bill. It's a good bill, oughta pass.

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Do you remark further?
Representative Staneski of the 119th, you have the
floor, madam.

REP. STANESKI (119TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Good evening.

REP. STANESKI (119TH):

And it is a very good evening. I'd just like
to call attention to members of the Chamber to our
friends up here in the gallery. It's really
important that this was brought out tonight
(applause) because they could not be here during the
week to do this. They know that this is a large
piece that they asked for last year.

It was the bill last year that I cut my teeth
on running up and down to the Senate in heels that I
should not have been wearing that day. And I am
really proud to stand with all my colleagues, I know
it will be 100 percent sponsorship, or co-

sponsorship by the end of this.

I want to thank the Majority Leader, Minority Leader for putting this on the go list and moving it up tonight. I wanna thank Representative Steinberg and Representative Srinivasan and the Public Health Committee for working on something that is so important.

They're getting their waiting list, they don't care where they are on that, they are just happy that they have one.

And so when this is done, I will be up there to give them all a hug. Thank you for allowing me to speak, Mr. Speaker. (Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Representative. And I bet these people in the gallery are very happy as well.

Representative Dillon of the 92nd, from the great city of New Haven, you have the floor, madam.

REP. DILLON (92ND):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I'm excited to speak in support of this measure and I really

wanna thank -- I thought this was be done before but it is impossible to understate how important the people are in a democracy.

And I really wanna thank two of my neighbors and constituents. Justin, if you could wave to everybody. And I know everybody up there is important. Everybody's important but some of them live in Westville, that's Justin and Cong (phonetic) who was performing with the cello and singing at Lyric Hall in Westville Village not long ago.

I know the world is bigger than that and I know that we're all bigger than that but I wanna thank everybody who in a bipartisan way worked to get this done and I hope that we make it all work, too.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, Representative. (Applause) Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the amendment before us. If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it, the amendment is adopted. (Gavel) Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Srinivasan of the 131st, I mean of the 31st, you have the floor sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do rise in strong support of the bill as amended. I know it is important, it is critical that we have a waiting list. We've been looking forward to this list for quite some time and as my good Representative Ferraro said, it had passed the House but unfortunately, you know, it did not pass through completely the Chambers and I'm glad this time around it's coming from the Senate to us and hopefully head to the Governor's desk pretty soon.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, just one or two questions to the proponent of the bill as amended.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, this waiting list -- will this waiting list include everybody that is on the list through the state?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that it will be a comprehensive list, it'll make it easier for people to understand where they stand on it.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and that was the list we've been looking for, a comprehensive list which includes everyone so everybody's aware of where they

are on the list and they can look forward on an annual basis to see what is happening to the list.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

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, will 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 CANDELARIA (95TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members
voted? Please check the board to ensure that your
vote has been properly cast. If all members have
voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will
take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the

tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 246 as amended by the Senate in concurrence with the Senate. It's amended by Senate "A" 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 CANDELARIA (95TH):

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Will the Clerk call calendar number 380.

CLERK:

On page 18, House calendar 380, House Bill number 5741, AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER LIVING HOMES. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Cook.

S - 706

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2017**

**VOL .60
PART 5
1580 - 1989**

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

CLERK:

On page 56, Calendar 325, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 246, AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE WAITING LIST FOR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana. Good evening, Ma'am.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, Ma'am?

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'm very pleased to be bringing this bill out tonight. Mainly because of the good work that many, many of us here in the General Assembly have undertaken, regarding individuals with developmental disabilities. This bill has many co-sponsors in both chambers, but more importantly, it also carries on work that was started last year with Senate Bill 294. And Madam President, at this time also, I just want to mention that the individuals that have been advocating are from -- and refer to themselves as Families First.

They have successfully passed legislation last year, with Senate Bill 294, and this year with this bill and I just briefly want to introduce them. They are in the gallery, before I explain the bill, and we do have an amendment on it. I want to welcome Rick Rothstein. Welcome back, Rick. I know you're recovered and love your advocacy, Lauralyn Lewis, Sue Bastian, Marina Derman, Dawn D. Mateo, Denise King, Frank King, Joe Duffy, hi Joe -- and Adrienne Benjamin, a good friend of mine. Thank you all for being here and thank you for your advocacy.

THE CHAIR:

Welcome to the chamber. Again.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

[Laughing] Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the bill makes various changes affecting DDS -- the Department of Developmental Services -- regarding individuals with intellectual disability. One of the most important aspects and projects that we have been working on in this group, Families First, with legislators and also DDS -- is their work with the department. The department has worked throughout the year with these individuals and has also worked with us here in the chamber. And it makes a couple of changes regarding the waiting list in particular.

The department has agreed to maintain one statewide comprehensive residential waiting list for individuals with intellectual disability and update that list at least quarterly. It also will do an annual assessment for future residential funding or

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

service needs for certain individuals with intellectual disability and it will review the residential waiting list with the DDS Regional Advisory Councils and the Council on Developmental Services. This is very important.

This is -- the regional councils are the liaison between families and individuals and also the department. Now, Madam President, at this time, I do have an amendment. LCO Number 7660. If the clerk would please call and I be allowed to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

LCO Number 7660, Senate "A" offered by Senators Gerratana, Somers, and Fasano.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on adoption. Will you remark, Ma'am?

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Yes. Thank you. This amendment does two things. It makes some changes for consistency in the underlying bill and it adds a new section and this - - again, was work with the advocates Families First and others. It establishes some criteria for the newly formed intellectual disability partnership. This is through the executive branch and it's in conjunction with OPM, also DDS, and the Commissioner of Social Services.

And they have been looking at ways to improve services for people, persons and individuals with developmental disabilities and in doing so, we have added some criteria here to make sure that those individuals with high levels of need are considered and also to post publically on the DDS website, the partnerships, meetings, agendas, and minutes. I hope the chamber will support the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment? Senator Somers. Good evening, Ma'am.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH):

Good evening, Madam President. I would like to say on the amendment that this is -- I would like to thank the efforts of all those involved. This is a great amendment. This particular group has been waiting a very long time. I am thankful and honored that you are still here tonight. We're going on 10 o'clock at night. Thank you for your determination and I urge the senate to pass this amendment and this bill tonight. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the amendment? Senator Fasano. Good evening.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Madam President. Pardon?

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Good evening. How are you?

THE CHAIR:

[Crosstalk] You don't want to know.

SENATOR FASANO (34TH):

Madam President, I want to thank both Senator Gerratana and Senator Somers and many people in this chamber who have supported the IDD caucus and intellectual disabilities advocates. And in the chamber, I might add and the gallery, we have many folks who came here early in the day and then had to leave but to show their resiliency and their outstanding advocacy, they're back here again this evening, just to watch this bill pass.

Madam President, this has been at steps along the way in which we've taken the IDD issue and slowly and methodically move it forward and there's been a lot of advocates in this circle -- Senator Osten's another advocate in this circle -- who have spoken

very highly of this cause and I think that that's the way you do it, is you slowly move the ball forward and where you see success, add to it.

Where you need change, you make the change. I'm proud to support this bill and I know many of you around this circle, if not all of you, will support this bill and I think that we're doing the right thing and we're moving an issue which never got much attention every year, further and further, towards a goal. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further on this bill? Senator -- I'm sorry. The amendment. Senator Looney. I'm sorry, it is the amendment.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Yes. Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH):

Thank you. I would like to also support this amendment, which reflects the work of a number of people in addition to those mentioned. Senator Fasano, Senator Bye has been very active in this issue, meeting with groups of parents and caregivers from all over the state on the issue of the waiting list. We know we have each heard stories from people in our district. Families that are

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

extraordinarily distraught over the possibility of what will happen, especially as the parents age and become frail and are worried about what may or may not happen in the future to their disabled children.

So this, I think -- this proposal will help us to address that issue and move forward on an issue that I think that everyone cares about in a bipartisan way and that for those of us who have some of the residential facilities in our districts and have visited them, we know that when we talk about needs that are real as opposed to those that may be speculative, these -- and certainly are the realists of the reals. So would urge support of the amendment and then the bill following the amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Looney. Will you remark further on Senate "A"? If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of Senate "A" please say "Aye".

SENATORS:

Aye

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? Senate "A" passes. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to add so that the chamber knows, this bill came in as a

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

proposed bill to the Committee on Public Health, sponsored by Senator Fasano and Senator Osten. And in honor of those two individuals, we made sure it would make it this far. [Laughing]

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

So I want thank the chamber. I urge them to of course, approve the bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Would you like to try on Consent?

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Oh. Madam President, if there's no objection, I would ask that this item be moved to our Consent Calendar. [Laughing]

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection? Seeing no objection on this bill. It is moved to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On page 10, Calendar 119, Senate Bill Number 126, AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS. There's an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

Thank you, Madam President. If the clerk can now call the items on the Consent Calendar, followed by a vote of the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On page 9, Calendar 115, Senate Bill 544, page 11, Calendar 130, Senate Bill 826. Page 13, Calendar 171, Senate Bill 35. Page 15, Calendar 198, Senate Bill 870. Page 16, Calendar 210, Senate Bill 835. Page 16, Calendar 215, Senate Bill 635. On page 17, Calendar 231, Senate Bill 605, and Calendar 233, Senate Bill 572. On page 19, Calendar 257, House Bill 7159. On page 21, Calendar 267, House Bill 7237.

On page 23, Calendar 289, Senate Bill 1038. On page 24, Calendar 300, Senate Bill 949. Page 26, Calendar 315, Senate Bill 1002. Page 30, Calendar 360, Senate Bill 1041. Page 35, Calendar 398, House Bill 6002. Also on page 35, Calendar 400, House Bill 7015. On page 36, Calendar 403, House Bill 7037. Page 43, Calendar 451, House Bill 7299. Page 48, Calendar 484, House Bill 7309. And on page 56, Calendar 325, Senate Bill 246.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote. The machine will be open on the third Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

cf
Senate

May 25, 2017

~~Immediate Roll Call has been ordered~~ in the Senate
on the third Consent Calendar for today. Immediate
Roll Call in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory, wanna vote?

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

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 3.

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

THE CHAIR:

~~The Consent Calendar's passed.~~ (Gavel) At this
time Senator -- Mr. Clerk, do you have anything on
your desk? Senator Duff. I'm sorry.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'll
yield for points of personal privilege, please.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any points of personal privilege? Seeing
none. Senator Duff.