

## Legislative History for Connecticut Act

### PA 17-6

SB844

House	2966-2981	16
Senate	761-762, 811-812	4
		<b>20</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**

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Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Are there any further announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions? If not, we will return to the call of the Calendar and with that will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 472.

CLERK:

On page 39, Calendar 472, Substitute Senate Bill No. 844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTHS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is --

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REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

The Senate's bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The question before the Chamber is passage of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill makes technical changes to the statutes as they relate to the prenatal testing for HIV and syphilis reflecting the Department of Public Health's current best practices on the timeframe in which to implement such testing and it is also consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendations. I move passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark? The wonderful Ranking Member of Public Health, Representative, Dr. Srinivasan, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

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Thank you, Madam Speaker, good morning, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Good morning to you, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Good to see you there, as usual.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Well, I could say what Deputy Speaker Ryan said yesterday, but I won't. [Laughter]

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker, just a few questions to the proponent of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If you could just enlarge on what happens with this bill in terms of timeframe as to when the testing, the prenatal testing is going to be done? A, for syphilis, B for HIV, compared to current practices?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

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REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you. That's an excellent question. Current statute requires that the prenatal testing occur during the third trimester and that both HIV and syphilis be tested in the same window. Based upon current knowledge of gestation science, they have separated the timeframes, the windows for testing; a separate window for HIV and a separate window for syphilis. Again, within the third trimester, but they are not the same windows precisely.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

So, through you, Madam Speaker. We are not increasing the number of times a woman is being tested, either for syphilis or for HIV. What we are changing is just the timeframe when these tests happen.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

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Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

That is correct. Though, I will add that there is still the testing post-delivery, which was part of the statute previously.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker. There also is a testing at the very first visit, at the time that the woman is found to be pregnant. Through you, Madam Speaker. That doesn't change.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker. We have not changed that section of the statute.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

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REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker. One of the reasons why both these tests, in the past, were done at the same time was for compliance reasons. You know, you worry that the pregnant lady may not be coming in for those checkups as frequently as she should be. We don't want to miss that window. Through you, Madam Speaker. If one of these tests are done and the other test is not done because of the change of the schedule, how do we compensate for that and do not miss either the syphilis nor the HIV?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for that question, through you. I'm not an expert. Certainly, these are recommendations and guidelines. I think these windows are indicated because they represent our best understanding of when we can evaluate through the testing procedure whether it's passed from the



mother to the child, but I am not sufficiently an expert to go much beyond that.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker. It is my understanding that if these tests are not done at the appropriate intervals, the ones that we are changing now, we will require that those tests be done when the woman presents herself at the time of labor and delivery; will that change?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, through you, Madam Speaker. Again, we are only changing the sections that relate to the testing during the third trimester, the post-delivery testing remains in the statute.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker, just so that I'm clear. We are not talking about post-delivery; we are still in the pre-delivery phase. What we now require is if these tests are not done at these intervals, when the woman comes for labor and delivery, prior to delivery, of course, that these tests are done as well; if they were not done at the appropriate interval. Does this bill change that in any way?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Madam Speaker, it does not change other sections of the statute.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

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Through you, Madam Speaker. We also look at lines 105 to 108. If we could look at those lines, which have been deleted. Through you, Madam Speaker. So, these lines, which have been deleted, which basically says that the individual has a right to refuse the results of the testing, the partner. Has that changed in this bill?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you. I'm not aware of any changes related to that particular stipulation.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker. If the kind Representative could look at lines 105 to 108, in the original bill, which have been deleted. So, that is what I'm referring to. Through you, Madam Speaker. Has that deletion not occurred?

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Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Madam Speaker. I'm not looking at a copy of the bill with the line numbers. Could the good Representative please indicate section and subsection?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Through you, Madam Speaker. It's Section 3, and it is Subsection C.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Bear with me, one moment, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back to order. Representative Steinberg, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair, for that moment. I've looked at the requisite section and my understanding, it doesn't change the underlying purpose of the testing and that was not considered necessary in the revision of the bill.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Maybe, I know that I'm not clear on the answer on that, but it is important for us to know and that, through you, Madam Speaker, maybe something that we could address as we move on. Obviously voiding it out today, but something we could address as we move on as to what component, what happens when a person refuses to get the results of the test. Because as you can imagine, Madam Speaker, the partner, the protected partner, needs to know as to what the results, what the positive test results are both in syphilis as well as in HIV. And if that partner refuses to get those results, which is what we are allowing to do,

as I understand this bill, my concern would be in the spread of either the HIV or syphilis through the partner who has not accepted the results and so does not know whether he is positive or not and that is my concern. But that is something that we could definitely address and I'm sure the good Chair will bring it up to DPH and we can address that as we move on.

Through you, Madam Speaker. What we're also changing here is the change of the Needle Program to Syringe Service Programs, that what we call this in this bill. Is it just a name change or is there any functionality to that?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, that's a good question. My understanding is that a change in nomenclature, which reflects current best use of the language as it relates to what we formerly referred

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to as Needles, but Syringes is actually a more accurate description for this context.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

And through you, Madam Speaker, my final question is, in the public hearing, to the best of my knowledge, I did not hear any opposition. Is the good Chair aware of any opposition to this bill as it moved through the public hearing process?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Madam Chair, thank you for that question, Representative. It did pass the Public Health Committee unanimously and I understand it also passed unanimously in the senate.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31ST):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the good Chair for the work that he's put into this bill and I urge my colleagues, both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation; where by changing the timeframe when these tests are done, we hopefully will get better outcomes as we are able to treat either one of those entities individually and prevent most importantly what we are concerned about, the transmission to the unborn child. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Representative Srinivasan. Will you care to remark further on the bill that is before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not -- Representative Dauphinas, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Madam Chair. A question for the proponent, if I may?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Please proceed.



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REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

My question is, is the only thing that's changed is the timeline of which we have an existing bill that is already in place that we're changing the timeline in terms of when someone should be tested?

Through you, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Through you, Madam Chair. That is correct.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Representative Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Okay. Thank you. I appreciate it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

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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 ORANGE (48TH):

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

CLERK:

Senate Bill 844.

Total Number of Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those Voting Yea	141
Those Voting Nay	0
Absent and Not Voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE (48TH):

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

[Gavel] Will the Clerk please call Calendar No.  
269.

CLERK:

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Senate

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Maybe there is -- if there is no objection, I would ask that this be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

I'm seeing no objections, so ordered, sir. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 248, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, this bill comes to us, again, from the Department of Public Health and there are various changes related to HIV. In the first section, it changes the

timeframes for testing pregnancy women for syphilis and HIV. This will make us consistent with current CDC guidelines. Actually, over the last number of years, there have been no incidents of HIV infections that have not been caught and actually, last year in 2016, one was caught and that is because the testing wasn't done late enough in the trimester so this bill is a very good bill in correcting that protocol and catching this disease, which can't be treated, and of course, the fetus can be treated appropriately. It also renames the DPH's needle and syringe exchange programs, as syringe services programs that narrows the topics that must be addressed in counseling for HIV and repeals an outdated provision. Thank you, Madam President. I urge passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I ask that this item be placed on Consent.

THE CHAIR:

I'm seeing no objections, so ordered. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 29, Calendar No. 275, Senate Bill No. 910,  
AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that is our last bill for the moment. If the clerk can call the bills for a vote on the Consent Calendar please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Clerk, first we're gonna call a list of bills on the Consent Calendar and then a vote please.

THE CLERK:

Page 2, Calendar 80, Senate Bill 804. Page 3, Calendar 88, Senate Bill 548. Page 5, Calendar 100, Senate Bill 616. Page 13, Calendar 166, Senate Bill No. 908. Page 14, Calendar 172, Senate Bill 937. Page 16, Calendar 180, Senate Bill 899. Page 16, Calendar 181, Senate Bill 900. Page 17, Calendar 192, Senate Bill 936. Page 26, Calendar 248, Senate Bill 844. Page 29, Calendar 275, Senate Bill 910. Page 30, Calendar 279, Senate Bill 953. Page 37, Calendar 320, Senate Bill 976. Also, on page 37, Calendar 321, Senate Bill 993. On page 38, Calendar 330, Senate Bill 444. Page 40, Calendar 337, Senate Bill 888. Page 40, Calendar 338, Senate Bill 930. Also, on page 40, Calendar 339, Senate Bill 982. On 41, Calendar 341, Senate Bill 1032. On page 44, Calendar 358, Senate Bill 1003 and on page 45, Calendar 365, House Bill 7254.

THE CHAIR:

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

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THE CLERK:

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

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total number Voting	34
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	2

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar is adopted. (Gavel).

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for the purposes of a marking please?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):