

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

EDUCATION

CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
1917

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.  
Meeting of February 7, 1917.

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

House Chairman- Mr. Cowles  
Messrs. Eustice, Brown,  
Fish, Savage, Swain, Stoughton.

H. B. No. 134 (Back) - AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

MR. HINE of the State Board of Education:-

" There are in this State School Boards of various kinds, and the number of the Boards by law is three, six, nine or twelve. There are a few special charters, like New Haven and Danbury, where seven is the number. Many of the towns wish to reduce the number from six, nine or twelve, to three. The present procedure is very cumbersome and takes a long time to accomplish the result. They have to extinguish the first class, then the second class goes on for a year when they are extinguished, and the third class goes on for three years, when finally they are extinguished. The object of this bill is to enable the towns so desiring to reduce the number to three. There is another phase :- school committees are usually elected in the following manner; one member for one year, one for two years and one for three years. Boards of Education (local) and School Visitors are elected every year, and the object of this bill is also to enable the towns to regulate, if they like, this question of election. One of the objects is to enable them to reduce the number, and the other is to enable them to say whether they shall be elected in order.

MR. BROWN:-

" How about making this one board entirely for one year?"

MR. HINE:-

" This could be a political board. They could provide that out of the three two could be voted for. If you elected them annually, then it will always be one.

MR. BROWN:-

" I had a bill like this in here six years ago and they wouldn't look at it.

MR. BACK:-

" I will only make a very brief statement. I presume

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Mr. Hine has explained it better than I can. Of course the Committee is familiar with Chapter #146 of the Acts of 1909. Up to that time we had several towns in the state that had voluntarily voted to consolidate school districts. At that time the Legislature passed Chapter #146, providing for town management of public schools in the towns that had not voted to consolidate. That act seems to tie up the towns so that the school districts must remain as they were, forever. What was probably meant was that nothing in this act should affect the towns that had voted, to consolidate. I know of some towns that have wished to decrease the number of members of the school committees. The opinion of the Attorney General was that this Chapter #146 tied them up so that they might not under law decrease the number. We want the towns that voluntarily voted to consolidate to be put on the same basis and be able to fix their school committee number at either three, six, nine or twelve, at their own option. I might say that Committee on Statute Revision noted this discrepancy and have recommended that this act be passed by the General Assembly.