

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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CONNECTICUT
GENERAL
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engage in greater feats of valor. " He died that others might live."

In considering this memorial, let our thought be big and strong and reflect some of the noble traits of character exemplified by him who made the sacrifice.

We may be called upon to face a new peril any day and need such men again, to protect us from being sold into slavery.

This flying field would encourage greater efforts by the rising generation to fit and equip themselves for this kind of national protection.

Mr. Phelps: If you wish a copy of this map, I will be very glad to take this one and get you a copy of it.

Mr. Fenton: The hearing is closed.

✓ H.B. 745 (Mr. Wheeler) AN ACT CONCERNING THE NAVAL MILITIA

General Cole: That Naval Militia Bill, by agreement with the gentlemen interested in it, has been incorporated in the changes in the Militia Act.

✓ H.B. 518 (Mr. Payne) AN ACT AMENDING AN ACT CONCERNING THE MILITIA

General Cole: The purposes of this bill are to bring Connecticut up to date, somewhere near the front line. Connecticut has always in the past been way up in the front rank but some way we have dropped a little lately. I bring apologies at this time for being unable before to furnish the copy that you ought to have had to read over. The Committee, consisting of all commanding officers finished the work on it last night. It was put on my desk this noon. It is a copy of what we finally decided on. In addition, the matter in an unfinished state has been presented to the Governor. With your permission, I will take this up in sections.

Chapter 222, Public Acts of 1921:

Section 1 is not changed at all.

Section 2 is changed after the words " not exempt from Military Duty" (7th line) by introducing " and who are not members of organized Militia or National Guard."

Section 3 is not changed at all.

Section 4 refers to enrollment of every citizen or person who has declared himself. This serves no purpose at all at this time. The general government does not require the Adjutant General to make a report of the number of men who are liable to Military duty in the State. The only other purpose which this could serve is on the occasion of the Governor being required to raise a larger guard in time of peace. It is so remote that I cannot conceive of a single reason for it because in the event of another war, Congress has determined upon a policy which will be a repetition of the Selective Service Act, which answered this purpose better. As a matter of fact an enrollment of citizens that is absolutely reliable is useless because I have found that they enroll all kinds of men even men with only one leg. This enrollment causes a lot of work and places a burdon on the towns and the State which is bringing in no return.

I would recommend the deletion of sections 4 to 8 in-

clusive as being of no value. As a substitute for section four, if you think it would be wise to continue these sections on the statute book, I would introduce two sentences which as amended will read: "the names of all male citizens and other male residents (delete, and introduce)" shall when the Commander in Chief deems necessary"- still further delete until you come to " be enrolled alphabetically" and introduce " by or under the supervision of the selectmen, etc."

Five is only changed by introducing the word "new" and deletes the words " for a year".

Section 9 comes under the personal tax. We do not strike that out.

Section 11 is only changed so as to cover the Naval Militia. Cut out almost all of the Naval Militia Bill by putting the words "and Naval Militia" in. This takes care of the Naval Militia in addition to the National Guard.

Section 12 concerns giving to Connecticut what all other states in the Union have already adopted.

In the States of New York and Massachusetts they have gone even further than we have here. We have thought this matter out and have have felt that there might possibly be other angles rather than the military one which should be considered. I think I will leave this with you for your consideration though I shall be glad to be at your service in the matter. There is no possible reason for this not being perfectly acceptable to every one. We have tried to consider every ones feelings and to give every one a square deal.

The Governing staff at the present time is composed of an Inspector General, Chief Ordinance and several other officers or branches of the service. These officers would be perfectly competent if they had had the training but they cannot function only as an aid. Why give a man something he cannot function.

Mr. DeLamater: Later on, do you take care of the work of the Assistant Quarter Master General?

General Cole: Yes, that is taken care of further on.

Section 14 - the words "Assistant Quarter Master General" are deleted and the words " Army Board Inspector" introduced.

Section 15 is unchanged except by introducing the words "Naval Militia" after the words National Guard.

Section 16 deletes the largest part of this section that refers to the State Guard which is taken care of in another section.

Section 17 in reference to the National Guard Reserve, we introduce for the purpose of the Naval Reserve, and name it section 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, the following: (see copies on file)

Section 18 This section is to carry out the provisions of Federal law already enacted in Congress which requires the approval of the State authority.

Section 19 - in reference to how Commissioned Officers are appointed: This carries out absolutely the requirements of the war department in the appointment of officers. None can be appointed in the National Guard only from certain classes. They must have all the qualifications of an officer of the National Guard and have passed an examination before the Board. The State could, of course, appoint any body it wants to. It only has this drawback. That

unless they receive Federal recognition, the appointment is not worth anything. Officers must have completed the requirements of the Defense Act, which is that he shall have taken the oath of allegiance to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State and can receive no pay until such time.

Mr. DeLamater: The ruling sentence, then, is in reference to seniority.

General Cole: Approval must come through the Commanding Officer where a vacancy occurs. It does provide that where an officer is competent, he shall not be jumped. These are the conclusions we have arrived at after much thought and carefully going over them.

The last section has not been changed. This gives the Governor power to increase his force whenever required. He has ample power to increase.

Section 20 This is not changed at all except in introducing after the word officer, the words " of State Troops when such exist". It deletes the words State Guard and puts in State Troops.

Section 21 deletes guard and puts in troops. Twenty One covers the retirement of an officer. That is changed by cutting out State Guard and putting in State Troops. The words Spanish American War are introduced so as not to have any injustice done to any one. The Mexican Boarder service and the World War are also taken in, of course.

Section 22 Some change is made there. Cut out Guard and put in Troops to cover any troops organized in the future. The Spanish and World War may be included.

Section 24 is not changed at all.

Section 25 is changed only by introducing the words "State Troops" instead of State Guard as provided in section 3 of this chapter.

There are no more changes until we come to section 28.

Section 28 introduces after the words "National Guard, the words "Naval Militia". Delete the last sentence entirely.

Section 29 is not changed.

Section 30 This section will cover the point about Assistant Quarter Master General. Here is created the Armory Board.

The advisability of doing this is apparent. Under the existing conditions, it should have some stable board which would continue in existance. There can be no better manner of taking care of this than in placing it in the hands of the Board who are the officers who are occupying these Armories and who have the interest of the National Guard of Connecticut at heart and who can guard against misinterpretations.

By doing this the State interests will be safe-guarded and have a continuing policy. The Army Board Inspector should be familiar with all matters of State government and should inspect all Armories. He is under the control of the Quarter Master General and will carry to the successor of the Quarter Master General all the experience which must be required of some one. New York applies this same method.

There is no change in the balance of this section except by deleting Quarter Master General and introducing Armory Board and changing " shall be by him" to "shall be by it" meaning the Armory Board.

Mr. DeLamater: This section says that application for renting of the Armory shall be approved by the Armory Board. Would it not be hard sometimes to get the Armory Board together?

General Cole: It is only once in twelve times that it would be necessary to call the Board together. The Armory Board Inspector takes certain authority in many cases. If he should make a mistake the Armory Board has a chance to check up. The Adjutant General and the Quarter Master General would always be in close touch.

There are no changes now until section 35.

Section 35 is written anew. This matter has been weighed very carefully and we do not think any officer has been burdoned unnecessarily. This gives \$100 as an initial allowance and \$50 for every year thereafter.

If I might suggest it, I think that General Payne could go over this whole thing with you later and correct any typographical errors.

Section 36 is changed somewhat but while they increase the funds required in some cases, they decrease them in other places so that there are really no extra appropriations required.

You understand that this is done for the reason that the amount of clerical work required by the Federal Government of a Commanding Officer of a Regiment is absolutely beyond him. Most of his time is needed to sign papers prepared for him and to check them over. This section makes an allowance for \$2000 for Regimental Headquarters. Several clerks of \$100 are cut out. This makes it possible for the commanding officer to have a clerk to take care of the papers passing between the War Department and the Commanding Officer. The best he can do now is to have a Sergeant Major and prehaps himself work some nights to take care of the extra work. This is not a donation and there is no chance for plugging of the accounts. There is a great burdon on this officer and this would in a measure relieve him somewhat by giving him someone to take care of his papers and to get the needed signatures, etc.

Mr. Fenton: Could'nt the officer do all the work and keep the extra money?

General Cole: There is not much possiblilty of his doing that and if he did he would be giving the State a pretty good return for the money.

General Cole:(in answer to question) We ^{are to} have two regiments of Infantry, one of Artillery and a Medical Regiment. We exepct to complete the Medical before the 30th of June and the other two will be completed by 1924.

Section 37 In regard to paying allowances, there are no changes. Enlisted men of the army are dvided into seven grades and there are seven grades of pay. There is a slight addition and slight taking off here to make our records comply with the War Department.

After the 15 days in camp the men only get the pay of the regular army. Even by cutting down the pay of some of the men we do increase slightly because it was less than that paid by the United States. At the present time we are paying much more

than any other State in the Union for our National Guard. The men in the 6th and 7th grades are being rated as specialists, such as cooks. Maybe two or three in a company may be specialists. They are getting up to the rate of first class. This will give cooks a dollar and a quarter (\$1.25) more a day.

In the present Federal law Battalion Adjutants are the Commanding Officers of the Headquarters Company. The United States has provided \$240 payment to that officer. This is a very worthy thing. The whole trouble is that there are a few officers who are doing those very duties who cannot claim the \$240.00 because they are not in command of Units. The Adjutant is not in command of Headquarters as he used to be. The Adjutant does not draw this money. The Battalion Adjutant does draw this money because he is nominally in command. If Congress wakes up to this difference, then the State won't have to pay it. This will correct an injustice.

In regard to the section concerning Officers of the Navy, this is that section of that Naval Militia Bill covering pay of the Naval Militia.

The Naval Militia must be recruited from those already members of the United States Naval Reserve force. They are paid by the Federal Government and no additional pay is accrued from the State. The Government pays for a fifteen day cruise.

There might possibly be a slight increase in the overhead expenses of my office, but I shall not ask for this until I have had a chance to try the thing out. The State pays the men only when the Governor orders them out.

In the part of section 37 which covers the pay of enlisted men qualified as Sharpshooters there is one change, after the words "first class gunners, 40¢ a day," introduce the words "expert gunners 50¢ a day". This will increase the expense slightly.

Section 38 (Compensation for injuries to the men)

Now there is a great burdon on enlisted men by reason of them having to wait for the sitting of the Legislature until they can present their claims. Col. Bissell is very much in favor of this section. There should be an introduction in some way whereby the men who get hurt at camp can be taken care of right then and there. He should not have to wait for two years to get his Doctors Bill.

This will entail no expense on the State, in my opinion any where near what it will cost if allowed to go along from year to year. The matter of a Board will be a small cost because most of the cases can be taken care of without calling the Board at all, by the Medical Examiner. He will be an Officer of the National Guard thoroughly familiar with all matters of this kind. At any rate it provides the means of helping the enlisted man, which are more apparent to me than to most people.

For instance, if a man gets injured by a defective gun or falls off his horse, he has to wait for two years and so does the doctor, to get that acted on. These things could be settled for smaller sums, but when they go to the Legislature, it naturally costs more.

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Senator Doty: Does the State pay for disease contracted in the service?

General Cole: If a man should contract a disease and it developed while he was in camp the Federal Government takes care of this soldier while he is in camp but when the fifteen days are over, then the State has to take care of him. There is no way of getting paid for this now except by waiting for the Legislature.

This last year there was a reaction in the cases of a number of men who were seriously effected by the inoculation they had to undergo. This came while they were in the camp and the Federal Government had to take care of them. This inoculation is necessary as you all know from the experiences of the Spanish American War. I might say that there is a bill now before Congress which will relieve the State of this entire thing to a large degree. Then, if a man contracts disease in camp, the Federal Government will take care of him even after the fifteen days.

Section 40 (Service Medals) Introduce the words "intime of war since April 1898".

Section 52 There are no more changes excepting in section 52 where we use the word "troops" instead of "Guard".

Sections 67 and 68 changes "Quarter Master General" to "Armory Board."

Sections 73 and 74 are cut out entirely.

Col. James A. Haggerty:
169th Infantry. I don't know that I can add anything to the Adjutant General's talk. If it is necessary to change the laws so that the enlisted men may get this help, I am heartily in favor.

Chas J. Comfort, Jr.

Medical Staff: I want to endorse the opinion of Col. Haggerty. The question of medical care of the men is a thing vitally important. There are a number of cases- there is one in Wallingford now where a man is suffering from a hemorrhage of the intestines and he had to be operated on. The man seemed to be all right when he was admitted to the National Guard. This trouble came on while he was in camp. He was operated on at the New Haven Hospital and I told the doctors to send the bills to the Legislature- they might get paid and they might not. There are more bills that it was necessary to incur in Wallingford. There are a lot of just such cases and if we are to keep our National Guard, we have got to take care of our men. Some men of course, lie down on the job and we have investigated a number of those cases. I have myself a number of bills to collect but all such cases have to wait until the Legislature acts. I have studied this thing and it has my hearty endorsement. This will be a big step forward. I spend one hour a night for six nights a week in the interests of the National Guard but I do this gladly as this is my hobby.

General Cole: I want to introduce Col. Bissell.

Col. Bissell : There is not any Quarter Master proper except in the Army and there is no necessity of the title. I am one of the men with the title but no pay. I think this proposed amendment should be adopted.

Mr. DeLamater: Is the present Assistant Quarter Master General now an officer in the National Guard?

General Cole: Yes.

Mr. DeLamater: Why not make the Assistant Adjutant General the clerk of the office?

General Cole: I don't think this is permissible.

Mr. Fenton: There being no objections to this bill, the hearing is closed.