

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 218 CPA178) 1935
Fish & Game: 88, 95-98 (5)

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

Connecticut State Library
Compiled 2012

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

FISH
AND GAME

CONNECTICUT
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
1935

CONNECTICUT
STATE LIBRARY

On Thursday, March 14, 1935, at 1:30 P.M. the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE on FISH AND GAME met in Room 68 for the purpose of conducting a hearing on the following bills:

- √ S.B. No. 148 (Senator Kelly) AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING WITHOUT A LICENSE.
- √ S.B.No. 343 (Senator Claffey) AN ACT CONCERNING FISHING LICENSES FOR RESIDENTS SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE OR OVER.
- √ H.B.No. 1008 (Mr. Boucher) AN ACT CONCERNING HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES TO THOSE ON RELIEF ROLLS.
- √ S.B. No. 334 (Senator Claffey) AN ACT CONCERNING FISHING LICENSES FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.
- √ S.B. No. 340 (Senator Claffey) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISHING LICENSE FEE FOR MINOR RESIDENTS.
- √ H.B. No. 218 (Mr. Gillotti) AN ACT CONCERNING FISHING IN PONDS WITHOUT LICENSE BY PERSONS SIXTY YEARS OF AGE OR OVER.

All bills were fully discussed. The hearing closed at 3:00 P.M.

Clerk.

Hearing before the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE on FISH AND GAME.

THURSDAY

MARCH 14, 1935.

Rep. R. G. Bentley, presiding.

Members Present:

Senators: Barney.

Representatives: Bentley, Barrows, Banks, Jewett, Clark, Corning,
Emmons, Morse, Wright, Ashman, Gillotti, McEnerney.

✓ H.B. No. 218 (Mr. Gillotti) AN ACT CONCERNING FISHING IN PONDS WITHOUT
LICENSE BY PERSONS SIXTY YEARS OF AGE OR
OVER.

Rep. Gillotti: The reason I presented this bill is that it has been called to my attention by persons over the age of sixty years, who sometimes would like to go angling. People of that age are not as tough as the younger ones. There will not be a drain and would not exterminate trout fishing as they cost state money. I do not think there will be any objection.

Sen. Barney: Is anybody in favor or against this bill?

Rep. Sanford, Cromwell: I would like to say a few words in regard to this. I am very much in favor of this bill. People over sixty years of age are unemployed and cannot afford to buy a license. After he is that age he has paid his share in taxes. I am in favor of fishing in lakes and ponds.

Sen. Barney: Would there be any objection to putting in requirement that he should get a permit without charge?

Rep. Sanford: It would be a good idea. That is a very good feature, at no expense.

Mr. Andrews, Hartford, I would like to ask a question. That refers to ponds but not rivers? In the Willimantic river there is a pretty good bunch of eels. Is this restricted?

Sen. Barney: It would be very difficult to name every river.

Mr. Andrews: I have been brought up there and I know it is good fishing. I know where there is a pond flooded in the summer full of trout.

Rep. Gillotti: There are not too many ponds that way.

Mr. Andrews: There are not too many, but there is one.

Kenneth Cobb, State Board of Fisheries and Game:

The Board of Fisheries and Game wishes to go on record as opposed to these bills. They do not approve of discrimination. The department depends on license money and any free licenses will cut down that money that much more. There will be that many more hunters and fisherman to take the fish and game. As far as the unemployed are concerned, fishing for the purpose of getting food, we figure the cost of trout is too much to be used for that purpose. It is alright for sportsman, but for the sole purpose of food it is a very expensive food for the unemployed. Natural propagation will not take care of ponds. The fishing is too heavy. In the meantime the lower license fees would be taking that much revenue from the department and it would mean that we would have to slow up on our work. It would be a great hindrance.

Rep. Gillotti: Is there any way of checking that up?

Mr. Cobb: I believe from the record of licenses it can be checked up. There is no appropriation on this type of fishing. We have on shad and lobster etc, but we have no appropriation on fresh water fishing. The appropriation was taken away two years ago so that money comes from license fees. License fees pay for all the fish and game as well as maintain the department.

Rep. Gillotti: Has the department shown a surplus?

Mr. Cobb: There was a surplus and at the rate we are going, I think the surplus will be used up in another year.

Sen. Barney: That is one reason why they took the appropriation away.

Rep. Ashman: On that license for minors, from sixteen to eighteen, in your opinion would we gain money or lose it? Would that have a tendency to increase?

Mr. Cobb: I don't believe it would increase any. We would have that many more fisherman.

Rep. Bentley: Do you think if this bill was passed it would cause a panic?

Mr. Cobb: It would not cause panic. The trout is stocked fish, but it would not take long without stocking to get our ponds down.

Rep. Ashman: How do you get at what the conditions are. What method do you have of checking?

Mr. Cobb: The wardens are checked. Some streams are patrolled all day so they know what is going on all day. As near as we can figure it seems to be fifty per cent. The other fifty per cent are not checked.

Rep. McEnerney: The State Board is opposed to this bill? On what grounds?

Mr. Cobb: The Chairman of our Board is opposed to any bill which will discriminate any group or class. It makes it so that the unemployed are getting those privileges that the other person who is paying does not get.

Rep. Gillotti: Has the Advisory Council met on this bill?

Mr. Cobb: About three weeks ago.

Rep. Gillotti: We have a member of our city on that council.

Sen. Eccles: I think that I should like to say that as far as the child is concerned nobody would give more to the child than I. They become a nuisance. They are very nervous. They have not been schooled enough to stick to it. If they fail to catch fish the first thing they do is to throw sticks and cans in the water. There are many complaints. It might not happen in rural districts. I had a hard time discouraging a bill of this type before.

Sen. O Connell, 19th District, registered in favor of this bill.