

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB1121	PA 278	1945
Judiciary	744	
Senate	0	
House	560, 624	

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

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HB 2

CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY

HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS  
1945

VOL. 1  
PART 2  
381-804

5.24.1945

continued:

House Resolution No. 95 - This resolution as read by the Clerk, extending sympathy to the Honorable A. Leslie Perkins of Killingworth, obliged to be absent for the remainder was session, was adopted.

The following favorable reports were received from the committees named; the bills were read the second time and tabled for the Calendar and printing:

AGRICULTURE: House Bill No. 634 (substitute)

APPROPRIATIONS: House Bill No. 1218 (Committee Bill) "An Act Making An Appropriation for Capital Outlay for the Field Street Armory in Waterbury."

CITIES AND BOROUGHES: House Bill No. 1166.

EDUCATION: House Bill No. 937.

ELECTIONS: House Bill No. 952.

FINANCE: House Bills Nos. 697 and 1219 (Committee Bill) "An Act Amending an Act Consolidating the Borough of Winsted and the Town of Winchester.

FISH AND GAME AND SHELL FISH: House Bill No. 97 (substitute); House Bill No. 104 and House Bill No. 533 (substitute).

JUDICIARY: House Bills Nos. 421; 563; 75 (substitute); No. 1220 (Committee) "An Act Creating a Commission to Study the Probate Court System"

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY: House Bill No. 1061.

PUBLIC PERSONNEL: House Bills Nos. 48; 320; 805 and 806 (all substitute bills)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS: House Bill No. 1221 - "An Act Creating a Connecticut Veterans Reemployment and Advisory Commission."

An unfavorable report was received from the committee on CITIES AND BOROUGHES, on House Bill No. 493 - the title of the bill was read the second time, and the bill was tabled for the Calendar.

CHANGE OF REFERENCE: The following House Bills which had been previously referred to the committee on Roads, Bridges and Rivers received reports from this committee recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Appropriations, - House Bill No. 85 - An Act Authorizing the State Highway Commissioner to Construct and Maintain a Restaurant on the Merritt Parkway; House Bill No. 257 - An Act Making an Appropriation to the State Flood Control and Water Policy Commission". The reports of the committee were accepted and the bills were so referred. Also - House Bill No. 458 - An Act Making an Appropriation for Educational and Scientific Displays on the Merritt Parkway. This bill was acted upon by the said committee and according to its report was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

The following reports from the committees named were received from the Senate, the bills read the second time and tabled for the Calendar, -

CITIES AND BOROUGHES: Senate Bills Nos. 271; 320 (substitute)

PUBLIC PERSONNEL: Senate Bi.. 601 (substitute)

PUBLIC UTILITIES: Senate Bill No. 312 (substitute)

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legislature to get such pension systems put into effect. It is a permissive bill, and I hope your Committee will give it favorable consideration.

REP. PEPE: I too hope that the Committee will give favorable consideration to this bill.

MAYOR McLEVY, Bridgeport: I am in favor of the principle of this bill, but I feel that we will have to guard against legal complications arising in case of existing pension or retirement systems in certain towns and cities. I think there should be some limitation included, and that there should be a referendum included; otherwise we might have chaos from an act of this type. You might come up against every changing administration putting amendments to it, so that it would be impossible to control the expenditures.

CHR. CORKEY: Do you think it should be contributory, and that legislature should determine that?

MR. McLEVY: I don't think we could have pension systems unless they were contributory.

MR. THOMAS H. REED: I merely wish to say that I agree with Mayor McLevy, and believe such a bill should carry certain restrictions.

CHR. CORKEY: Then you would be in favor of some directive in the bill as to the type of system that could be adopted.

MR. REED: Yes I would.

MR. HAROLD L. STROUCH, A.F. of L. I am against the bill because the language is so broad that there is danger that by Court interpretation it might invalidate present pension systems. I think substitute H.B. 343 (Cities & Boroughs) would take care of this.

MR. HAROLD FEINMARK, Conn. Federation of Labor: I oppose this bill for the same reasons given by Mr. Strouch.

Sub. H.B. No. 48 (Rep. Hagerty) AN ACT CONCERNING  
PENSIONS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES  
OF THE BOROUGH OF GROTON.

REP. HAGERTY: This bill is the result of two or more years study on the part of Committees, officers and attorneys of Groton. It meets with everyone's

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approval, and affects about 55 or 58 regular employees of the borough. Three employees are now in the armed services. We feel that we have prepared a good sound bill, in collaboration with the actuaries, and hope the Committee will give it favorable consideration.

MR. HARRY C. BROGAN, Borough Attorney of Groton: I am the Attorney who worked on this bill. The borough is a municipal corporation, organized in 1903, performing municipal services. We are here concerned with the fire department, police department, highway, garbage and utility departments. The Borough of Groton has a Warden and six Burgesses, and in 1942 a petition was made for a bill to be drawn covering a contributory pension system, and in January 1943 a Committee was appointed to study the matter. This Committee was composed of very able and competent men, and they didn't hesitate to call on insurance actuaries for assistance. We are therefore satisfied that we come here with a bill which is actuarially sound, and our object is to provide a pension for these employees on a workable basis. We desire to protect employees in the armed forces, and in this connection feel that the Retirement Board might make rules and regulations to cover them consistent with their status on returning from service. We will never have an entirely green Retirement Board, as there will always be someone on who is fully cognizant of the working of the entire system. The Board serves without compensation. Two types of benefits are to be established: The past service benefit is to be 1% of the amount which the employee makes during the year immediately preceding his entry into the fund, multiplied by the years he has been with the Borough. As for future pensions, it is based on 1½% of income earned by employee following entry into fund. The borough will take care of past contributions, as far as past service is concerned. The employee is to pay 5% of his salary into the fund, with the usual provisions that should he leave before normal retirement, or die, there will be a return of contributions made, plus interest. An employee with 10 years service has the privilege of leaving funds in and getting an annuity. The retirement age is set at 65, or at the request of employee with approval of Retirement Board they may continue until 70. It provides that the Retirement Board may make

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adjustments in the event that employees as a whole, or as a class, are benefited in other ways. We would like to have provision made so that if the system doesn't work it may be discontinued, of course recognizing all benefits that have already matured. We also ask for a referendum. I have heard of no objection to this bill. We asked that it be effective April, 1945, but we would like to defer this awaiting the outcome of the State Pension Bill. I might suggest a tentative date of August, 1945. Of course, if the state bill doesn't pass, we do want to put our plan in operation.

REP. LITTLE: Won't you find yourself besieged with requests for other Groton employees to come under the system.

MR. BROGAN: No, they are entirely separated from the Borough.

Also registering in favor of the bill were Warden Card, Mr. Williams, a member of the Pension Committee, Henry L. Bailey, Jr., Burgess, the Captain of the Police Department, the head of the Utilities Department, and John a. Mahoney and James L. Forrest, Burgesses of Groton, and Mr. Charles E. White, Chairman of the Pension Committee.

S.B. No. 197 (Senator Corkey) AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON, CONCERNING PENSIONS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON.

MR. EDWARD HENKLE, City Manager: New London is one of the few towns in the state which has a non-contributory pension system. We feel that our plan has been successful, but we have found ways of improving it, and the plan now submitted to this Committee is similar to the present one, with a few changes. It has the unanimous approval of the town officials; as far as I know it has the approval of most of the city employees and carries a referendum. We have a pension budget of \$33,000, which we consider a fair amount out of a total budget of over \$2,000,000. The question of retirement ages, etc., is left with the Board, but they receive one-half of total pay at time of pension. Under the present plan the employees have no vested right to retire on reaching a certain age, and it is the