

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

SB 558 PA 419 1947

Public Health & Safety: 96-106 (11)

House: 324-326 (3)

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TUESDAY

APRIL 1, 1947

Senator Raymond, presiding

Members present: Senator Raymond

Representatives: Austin, Barringer, Christoph, Downing,
Ingalls, Padula, Riley, Tyrol, Wakelee,
Webster and Wheeler.

Chr. Raymond: We are going to open this hearing on S. B. No. 292 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN PLACES OF ASSEMBLY IN BUILDINGS and S. B. No. 558 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS. REGARDING EXIT SIGNS.

Are the proponents of the bills here? Or are there any Senators or Representatives that would like to speak in favor of these bills?

Mr. W. J. Sinnott: On my arrival today I received mimeographed copy of a form entitled "Proposed substitute for S. B. 558 and H. B. 951 concerning safety to life in buildings housing the public; S. B. 290 and H. B. 950 concerning safety in hospitals, convalescent homes and certain other buildings, and H. B. 952 concerning fire alarms and automatic sprinkler systems in certain buildings". It is apparent that this substitute bill would cover all of the features in S. B. 558.

Chr. Raymond: Anybody else like to speak?

Commissioner Hickey: I want to speak now on the substitute bill for S. B. No. 292 and H. B. 944 (AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN PLACES OF ASSEMBLY IN BUILDINGS). The substitute that is offered, I think the Committee have a copy, which is entitled "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN PLACES OF ASSEMBLY IN BUILDINGS", in order to enlighten the Committee on the reasons for offering this substitute act concerning the safety of persons in places of assembly. I would also like to discuss at the same time a substitute for S. B. 558 and for H. B. No. 951 (AN ACT CONCERNING SAFETY TO LIFE IN BUILDINGS), both concerning safety to life in places housing the public. S. B. 290 (AN ACT DIMINISHING DANGER TO LIFE, HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CASE OF FIRE) and H. B. No. 950 (AN ACT CONCERNING SAFETY IN HOSPITAL, CONVALESCENT HOMES AND CERTAIN OTHER BUILDINGS) and H. B. No. 952 (AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE ALARMS AND AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN CERTAIN BUILDINGS.)

I realize that some of these bills that I have mentioned are not on the calendar before this committee hearing today but as the substitution that is made affects all these bills, I would like to discuss them in general. This substitute for S. B. No. 558 and H. B. No. 951 is recognized as a Fire Safety Code Enabling and Enforcement Act. I think I am correct in stating that the reasons for offering many of the bills concerning safety in places of public assembly is because the public is very conscious of the serious fires that have occurred, not only in this vicinity but throughout the country. And these proposed bills that have been offered

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are all in the interest of public safety and I am sure that all understand the motives that prompt asking for more strengthening laws and closer application of the law. I happen to be a member of the Governor's Fire Commission which has been studying not only the existing laws but the proposed changes in the law. That commission comprises of five individuals, two of whom are representatives of insurance companies and have to do with safety engineering. One is a building inspector of the neighboring town of West Hartford. One is the superintendent of a hospital (New London Memorial Hospital) and the other member is a fire chief (Fire Chief Hines of New Haven). So I think this committee is well qualified to make recommendations. All of the study have also been referred to the Fire Chiefs Association of Connecticut; to the Building Inspectors Association; to the Department of Health, as that department has control over licensing of convalescent homes. We have also referred some of the proposed changes that we have made to the State Board of Education as they have concern about safety in schools. After all these conferences and exchange of information between these groups, we have returned to this particular suggestion: that an enabling and enforcement act be established by law for the purpose of changing all these conditions. We feel that these conditions that are suggested in these various bills can be made satisfactorily through the Enabling Act and we ask you to consider that this state is, like many states, that there are all types of buildings; that there is very little new construction under way; that our problem deals with existing structures in buildings and we must approach it having in mind the conditions that now exist. A hard and fast law will not only work out many hardships but will make it difficult to remove a law of the hazards that we know do exist and we suggest and recommend that this Code be established. I think it's important that we read it:

"Section 1. For the purpose of this Act and any other statutes related to fire prevention and safety the Commissioner of State Police shall serve as the State Fire Marshal. He may delegate to any member of the State Police Department such powers as he deems expedient for the proper administration of this Act and any other statute related to fire prevention and safety.

Section 2. The State Fire Marshal shall establish a Fire Safety Code and at any time may amend the same. The regulations in this code are to provide reasonable safety from fire, smoke and panic therefrom in all buildings and upon all premises except those used for manufacturing. This code shall be known as The Connecticut Fire Safety Code.

Section 3. This code shall specify reasonable minimum requirements for fire safety in new and existing buildings and facilities. Regulations may be in accordance with the size, type of construction, and nature of use or occupancy of such buildings or facilities.

Section 4. Nothing in this Act, and no regulations made in accordance therewith, shall be inconsistent with the provisions of the statutes nor impair the rights of municipalities to enact ordinances and make orders with respect to buildings as provided

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for in Section 2602 of the General Statutes and Section 2603 as amended by Section 445g of the 1941 Supplement thereto, in so far as such ordinances or orders specify requirements equal to or additional thereto, or more stringent than the regulations issued under the authority thereof.

Section 5. The Connecticut Fire Safety Code and all amendments thereto shall be registered with the Secretary of State and advertised in accordance with Sec. 42h of the 1945 Supplement, and in addition thereto a copy shall be provided all local fire marshals, fire chiefs, Building Inspectors, and also such other governmental officials as may request same.

Sec. 6. Any person who shall violate any provision of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code shall be fined not more than \$200.00 or imprisoned not more than three months, or both.

Section 7. Each local Fire Marshal shall inspect or cause to be inspected, at least once each calendar year and as often as may be necessary in the interests of public safety, all buildings and facilities of public service within his jurisdiction, and upon receipt by him of information from an authentic source that any other building or facility within his jurisdiction is hazardous to life safety from fire, he shall inspect such building or facility, and in each case shall satisfy himself that all pertinent statutes and regulations are complied with, and shall keep a record of such investigations. Such local Fire Marshal shall have the right of entry by himself or by his lawful agent at all reasonable hours into or upon any premises within his jurisdiction for the performance of his duties except that occupied dwellings and habitations, exclusive of common use passageways and rooms in tenement houses, hotels and rooming houses, may only be entered for inspections between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., except in the event of an emergency requiring his immediate attention for safety to life, or in the interests of public safety. Each local Fire Marshal shall make a monthly report to the authority from which he received his appointment, and shall be paid for his services in making such inspections of buildings and facilities the compensation agreed upon with such appointing authority.

Section 8. When the local Fire Marshal shall ascertain that there exists in any building, or upon any premises, combustible or explosive matter, or dangerous accumulation of rubbish or any flammable material especially liable to fire, which is so situated as to endanger life or property, or shall find obstructions or conditions that may interfere with the egress of the occupants in case of fire, he shall order such materials to be forthwith removed or the conditions remedied by the owner or occupant of such building or premises, except that when such building, structure or premises is being used in the carrying on of manufacturing, he shall promptly notify and report in writing such matters to the Commissioner of Labor and Factory Inspection upon forms provided by said Commissioner. Upon failure of an owner or occupant to abate such hazard or remedy such condition within a reasonable period of time as specified by the local Fire Marshal, such local Fire Marshal shall promptly notify the State Fire Marshal of all the facts pertaining thereto, and said State Fire Marshal shall promptly take appropriate action

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for abatement of such hazard, and may order such place or premises closed or restricted from public service or from use until such hazard has been remedied. When such hazard is found to exist upon premises supervised or licensed by a State Department or agency, the State Fire Marshal shall promptly notify the administrator of such department or agency of his findings.

Section 9. When the local Fire Marshal shall ascertain that there exists in any building or upon any premises a condition in violation of the statutes relating to fire prevention and safety, or any regulations made pursuant thereto, the remedy of which shall require construction or a change in a structure, of which shall require construction or a change in a structure, he shall promptly notify the Building Inspector in writing, if there is one, and if there is no Building Inspector he shall promptly notify the State Fire Marshal in writing, and either of these officials so notified shall issue orders for the elimination of such condition.

Section 10. The State Fire Marshal may take original jurisdiction for the abatement of any hazardous condition found by him or his agents to be contrary to the statutes or to the regulations made in accordance therewith, and shall report such conditions to a prosecuting attorney. He shall have the right of entry by himself or by his lawful agents at all reasonable hours into or upon all or any premises where any such hazard may exist. The State Fire Marshal, upon receipt of information from the administrator of any State department or agency that a condition in any building or facility supervised or licensed in part or in whole by his department or agency, is hazardous to life or is in violation of the statutes pertaining to fire prevention and safety or the regulations made in accordance therewith, shall make or cause to be made, an inspection of such building or facility, and may take original jurisdiction for the abatement of such hazardous condition.

Section 11. Any person aggrieved by an order of the local Fire Marshal or State Fire Marshal relative to the enforcement of the statutes concerning fire prevention and safety may appeal therefrom to the Court of Common Pleas.

Sec. 1001c of the 1935 Supplement, and Sections 491g, 492g and 493g of the 1943 Supplement to the General Statutes are herewith repealed."

I might say that in asking for approval of this particular bill concerning the Fire Safety Code Enabling and Enforcement Act, we are aware of the fact, and we want to call to your attention, that we have other enabling acts. We have an enabling act practically the same as this permitting the Commissioner of State Police to set up rules and regulations governing the operation and safety of theatres. We also have an enabling act permitting the Commissioner of State Police to set up rules and regulations governing the storage, transportation and use of explosives. We also have one governing the use of tents or other movable dwellings. These three have been enforced, with the exception of the last one which went into effect in 1945, a number of years and we have found the licensees operating under these particular rules and regulations cooperate. I think you would find on inquiry that they would much prefer to continue on the rules and regulations than to have any rule or law or law put on the books so that we could not give safe leeways.

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The reason for that is because of the changing conditions that come from time to time. That's why we are asking for this Safety Code to enable us to meet these changing conditions. I realize and I'm sure members of this Committee also realize that there has been a feeling in the legislature for a number of years that it was not quite in line with the wishes of many of the legislators to delegate such power and such authority to state departments and agencies. I would be in accord with that view if I was asked to adopt some kind of an Enabling Act regarding traffic on the highway today and I wouldn't want anything to do with rules and regulations of that kind because it would be impossible and impractical to meet it. Therefore, we must have an absolute law to cover such conditions. Here we are dealing with buildings and things that we must face from a practical point of view as well as a theoretical point of view. For that reason I want to ask your favorable recommendation to the legislature for this Enabling Act so that we can have the full cooperation - not only of all agencies that are interested, the law enforcement agencies that are interested - but I feel that we can get better public support of that kind of an act and arrive at reasonable safety.

Another thing that I want to point out to you is this amended act concerning the safety of persons in places of assembly in buildings. If it should so happen that this Fire Safety Code was not approved by the legislature, despite whatever recommendations this Committee may make, we certainly would be in a very sad plight if it turned out that we have a bad fire and failing to get it approved by the legislature we would certainly be in a very sad plight if we do not have an act to take its place. I would ask you to give consideration to AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN PLACES OF ASSEMBLY IN BUILDINGS. If I may be so bold as to suggest to this Committee that they consider the Fire Code Enabling Act and whatever your decision may be in that, if it is a favorable one I would ask that you submit that for consideration to both houses and if they approve we could then incorporate it in our rules and regulations and get co-operation. If the Fire Safety Code Enabling and Enforcement Act was made law there wouldn't be any need for asking for an additional law for the Act Concerning the Safety of Persons in Places of Assembly in Buildings because ~~that~~ we would incorporate ~~it~~ in our rules and regulations the provisions that are set forth in that Act. I'm sure that there are other representatives here who would like to be heard and I certainly would like to have you listen to what they have to say. There may be some who are not in accord.

Fire Chief Henry Thomas, Hartford: I represent Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association. I would like to speak in support of this substitute law of S. B. No. 558 along the same lines as pointed out and indicated by Commissioner Hickey. I feel that the sound of those fire sirens was quite timely. The public is conscious of the hazards of fire because of a

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number of tragedies and loss of life, etc., and outside of the consciousness of it the situation is quite real. If we were to get very close to it in this particular room I wonder what we might do if something should occur in this building. The Fire Chiefs of this state have had something to do with the formation of these bills for which this particular bill is asked as a substitute. We are very much aware of the fact of safety from fire by prevention in itself and the economic factor as well has a real potential life hazard. This costs money but we must deal with existing buildings and while most building codes are not retroactive we are still faced with the existing buildings, some of which have been the grounds of these serious losses of life in hotels and other institutions. As a representative of the Fire Chiefs of Connecticut I wish to submit that we could put ourselves high in the lead of all other states if your Committee would approve a State Safety Code. The State Fire Marshal is capable of making that Code and also of operating that Code with the assistance of the various local marshals. We are very much aware that you can't build new buildings to put fire escapes in. Neither can we wait until we get new buildings to work with to apply it. We have a very real situation, and other states throughout the country are now in the process of forming and compiling various laws and regulations. The Fire Chiefs of the state, to whom is charged the responsibility of protecting life and property, ask for adequate legislation to provide safety in case of fire. On their behalf I want to emphasize very strongly that we are very much in favor of the Connecticut Fire Code to be formed and operated under the State Fire Marshal's office. And in view of the fact that the fire losses and the deaths from fire increased five hundred and sixty-one million in the country last year from spectacular hotel fires, etc., I can not conceive of this Committee or any other committee failing to provide a code that can put Connecticut in the forefront as far as the safety to life of its inhabitants is concerned.

Chr. Raymond: I would like to ask the fire chief if that fire siren wasn't part of the program. Anyone else wish to speak?

Mr. Arthur Rutherford, Building Inspector: I am here as chairman of the Building Inspectors Association of Connecticut. I also happen to be a member of the Governor's Committee on Fire Safety and we have given a great deal of time to the study of these problems before your Committee. I think that these bills as they have been perfected by Commissioner Hickey are the answer to the work that has been going on over a great many years. Fire marshals and building inspectors have been at this work for the past thirty years. Some of the fire marshals in the state longer than that. Those are the men who know what we should have for fire safety in these buildings. As Commissioner Hickey has said, the Governor's Committee has consulted with all these various agencies. We have considered very many methods of approach to this problem. I think the building inspectors in the state unanimously agree that this Enabling Act is the solution of the problem. Enabling acts are not new to this

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legislature. There's an enabling act to the city of New Britain; one to West Hartford and one for East Hartford which gives these cities and towns the right to adopt any law that they see fit that conforms to certain standards. The National Board of Fire Underwriters and various committees all over the country have engineers at their command that the state of Connecticut could not afford to hire to delve into these subjects. This Enabling Act would have these agencies and their work over the past years and the present work that they are doing on this very job shows I think that we all have a responsibility saving lives. This Committee has a responsibility to the citizens of the state of Connecticut. For the building inspectors of Connecticut and for the people, let's try this method and I think it will positively work.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else who would like to speak in favor of this bill?

Dr. Lamoureux: My particular interest in this bill is based on the fact that my bureau in the State Department of Health licenses some two hundred and eight hospitals and convalescent homes. This brings us into the middle of the whole matter. Under the sanitary code the fire precautionary measures shall meet the approval of the State Commissioner of Health. That has meant in the past that untrained men have had to be fire marshals to a great extent. Recently we have asked that the delegation of the approval be on the local fire marshal. Now the trouble here is that in the cities where we have full time departments we can get supervision. In the country where about 80% of our homes are located, we have a variation in standards depending on the individual who's doing the job. The Department of Health has tried to establish its own standards to bring these matters into some regulation. This code is the answer. It standardizes the procedure. It causes no hardship. It produces a great deal more co-operation because somebody down in Fairfield county knows that somebody in Windham county is doing the same thing and they are more willing to do it. Buildings are not safe so regulations have to be made to make them safe. On the basis of that fact, and really our interest pertains to S.B. 290 and S.B. 558, I would like to go on record as favoring - and I hope that you also favor - the Enabling Act.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else?

Mr. Joseph F. Farr, New Britain: I represent the Connecticut State Firemen's Association and our Association wants to go on record in favor of this bill - the enactment of this code to the public safety in buildings.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else?

Stewart M. Potter, Fairfield: As chairman of the legislative committee of fire chiefs I also want to go on record as favoring the adoption of this regulation.

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Chr. Raymond: Anyone else?

Fire Chief George C. Graham, Bristol: I would like very much to go on record in favor of this bill. I'm a member of the legislative committee of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Connecticut. I happened to get a hold of a few figures the other day that I would like to mention. For every child in the United States that's stricken with infantile paralysis there are four children that died by fire. That's a record of which we shouldn't be proud and I surely would like to see Connecticut out in the forefront with safety measures against fire.

Mr. C. F. Baron, Fairfield: I'm heartily in favor of the bill and there are a great many reasons why this bill should have the highest approval. In suburban areas we need protection against fire hazards, especially in such areas where there are no possible means of protecting small homes and where homes have not been professionally designed. In the past few years we have many instances of fires in this state costing three or four thousand ~~dollars~~ people killed, injured and crippled and some of them were women and children. I believe the authority vested in the Fire Marshal can be depended upon to make safety regulations.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else?

Mr. Harold Shippee, Westfield or Fairfield: I wish to go on record as favoring this Enabling Act.

Mr. J. Franklin Dunn: I am also a member of the Chiefs' Legislative Committee. I wish to go on record in favor of this Enabling Act.

Mr. Thomas F. Lee, Fire Commissioner of Hartford: I would like to go on record as being 100% in favor of this bill.

Fire Chief Joseph B. Tracy, Norwich: I would like to go on record in favor of this bill.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else?

Mr. J. F. Meunier, East Hartford: I would like to go on record in favor of this bill. The Committee should know what I have been thinking of. We are giving this Committee the benefit of perhaps four or five hundred years of experience in the fire service and I think that should be considered.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else?

Mr. Herman M. Levy, Council of Motion Picture Theatres for Conn.: I would like to state for everybody interested that we are in favor of this bill. We have been ~~got~~ under the supervision of the State Police Department and it's a very, very strict supervision. Four years ago I canvassed all the states in the union in so far as fires in theatres were concerned and Connecticut was the safest state in the union. State police

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supervision is hard and strict and it is primarily interested in safety of public. Interest best to be served through this Enabling Act.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone in the room opposed to this bill? Is there any member of the Committee that would like to ask any questions?

Rep. Riley: How much time would be given these people to get the changes you suggest?

Commissioner Hickey: Reasonable time is given to make the suggestions offered. The Enabling Code will grant the authority to the State Fire Marshal to grant allowances and that is one of the very strong reasons why we are asking for the adoption of the Code. Otherwise if you had an act here which was specific and positive and went into effect on the first day of July, I think all of us would agree that we would have no other recourse but to enforce it and let some court decide whether we were correct.

Rep. Ingalls: Does this affect private homes also?

Commissioner Hickey: Includes all buildings and could include certain types of houses that come under the tenement act.

Chr. Raymond: Is there anyone who would like to speak on any one bill in particular, that is the original bills? They are covered by the Enabling Act you have been talking about but I was wondering if anyone wanted to pick out any of the flaws in any of them. Anyone wish to speak on S.B. No. 292 or H. B. No. 944? Is there anyone who would like to tear any of these apart?

Rep. Austin: Why are town halls exempt?

Commissioner Hickey: I think I have probably been advocating fire safety in all buildings for at least twelve years and I think there are other men here who have been at it much longer. Why town buildings are exempt, I can't tell you. I can say this to you - wherever I have personally made a restriction I have not advocated any exceptions in any buildings. From my experience in some town halls, they will not be exempt.

Rep. Austin: It doesn't seem logical to exempt town halls.

Commissioner Hickey: I'm not in favor of exempting town halls because many are being used for other reasons than town governmental reasons. We have to detail police and firemen to attempt to put some reasonable safeguards in the places, so I would not under any circumstances exempt town halls.

Rep. Barringer: What regulation do you have for private homes?

Commissioner Hickey: We have a tenement act now that specifies installation of oil burners and safety devices. I have also

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in mind the suggestion that has been made for garden apartments that there be only one exit permitted in garden apartments that might have a greater number of people than twelve occupying the premises. For a single house with a single family, I doubt if any further precaution than what we have already would be taken.

Rep. Barringer: I haven't anything in mind unless the Chief has something to offer.

Chief Thomas: The only precaution is approving certain types of oil burners; approving the installation of the oil burners. I might point out here that in Section 7 of this proposed Enabling Act, on page 2, you will find that there is a sentence that reads, "Such local Fire Marshal shall have the right of entry by himself or by his lawful agent at all reasonable hours into or upon any premises within his jurisdiction for the performance of his duties except that occupied dwellings and habitations, exclusive of common use passageways and rooms in tenement houses, hotels and rooming houses, may only be entered for inspections between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., except in the event of an emergency requiring his immediate attention for safety to life, or in the interests of public safety." I think that's quite obvious of the intent of the State Commissioner of Police and State Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Hickey: I think we ought to be concerned with buildings as to the exits. The fire that took place down in East Hampton where a building was built as a garage or a storehouse and changed into a dwelling - there was but one exit and even the windows were higher than usual. I think the windows were 5 1/2 or 6 feet from the floor and when the fire happened in the bottom the only exit was the front door. All but one of the family lost their lives. The fire marshal should be authorized to correct a situation like this. Not for the purpose of going out and taking a single dwelling and saying this about it but for a condition that arises like that and then we could be empowered to correct a situation of that kind.

Mr. Arthur Rutherford: The Commissioner has explained it very thoroughly. As an instance of how fire conscious people are, a week ago Wednesday night at a council meeting I presented a building code to the city of New Britain which they have adopted and they insisted that there should be two ways out of every one-family house.

Mr. Herman Levy: S. B. No. 558 may not be accepted but I would like to call the Committee's attention to the original bill. Section 2. states, "Exit signs shall have the word EXIT in plainly legible letters not less than 3/4 inch in width and shall be not less than five inches in height. Signs in corridors and other passageways where necessary to indicate the direction of egress shall have EXIT signs with suitable arrows. The lettering shall be of a size not smaller than required for Exit signs. Provision shall be made whereby such signs shall remain plainly visible for a period of one-half

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hour in cases of emergency caused by the failure of the primary source of current." My contention is that that is a privately owned, patented exit sign which is fluorescent after the source of power is turned off. It is in here without saying that it is a privately owned patent. For the theatres we certainly object to any privately owned patent. If it has the approval of the Commissioner of the State Police or if he feels we should have that we will bow to accept it but we do not want to be legislated into using it. This is only if you consider the original bill instead of the substitute bill.

Commissioner Hickey: I am in accord with what the gentleman has stated if we were considering the original S. B. No. 558. But I might say that if the Enabling Act is approved, I would certainly adopt the suggestion that was made by the Governor's Commission and Fire Chiefs, the Building Inspectors and Departmental Agencies and the others by pointing out that Section 3: "Exit signs, of a type or types approved by the State Fire Marshal, shall be placed at each exit doorway of a place of assembly, and at the doorway in any passageway or any stairway leading therefrom." And two sentences below: "Adequate illumination shall be provided in all exit passageways and stairways. The lighting source for exit passageways and stairways and exit signs shall include an automatic auxiliary source of power approved by the State Fire Marshal." The Enabling Act would empower us to approve exit signs in passageways and the Fire Marshal would be able to consider John Doe's light as well as Mr. Sinnott's light. If it met the test they would all be acceptable.

Mr. Sinnott: I would like to state that the sign we manufacture is not patented. At least eleven national manufacturers make it.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else like to say anything further? If not, we will close the hearing on these bills.

S. B. No. 52 (Raymond) AN ACT CONCERNING SANITATION OF RENTED DWELLINGS.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone like to speak in favor of S. B. No. 52?

Mr. Warren J. Scott, Sanitary Engineer: Dr. Osborn has asked me to speak in favor of this bill which was introduced with the approval of the State Department of Health. Some reference has been made to our State Tenement House laws. We have a very peculiar situation in Connecticut. We have certain powers given to the Department of Health but very little power with regard to any rented single and two-family houses. In Section 2562 of the general statutes the tenement house is defined as any house or building or portion thereof which is rented or is occupied as the home or residence of three or four families living independently of each other. In connection with the law we have certain state statutes that are already on the books. I will pass around the state laws that are already on the books with regard to three family houses. We are getting every day

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House Bill No. 1487 continued:(Mr. Tanner)

(The rules were suspended.)

Mr. Tanner: This bill provides, Mr. Speaker, for certain teachers in the Education department who have been serving in Bridgeport for several years to come under the provisions of the Civil Service Act in Bridgeport. I move acceptance of the committee's report and the passage of the bill.

The Speaker: The question is on acceptance of the committee's report and the passage of the bill in concurrence-
no, this is a House bill. Will you remark?

(Without debate and under suspension of the rules, the report of the committee was accepted and the bill passed.)

The CLERK: Favorable report of the committee on Public, Health and Safety - on SENATE BILL NO. 558 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS REGARDING EXIT SIGNS.
(substitute bill)

The Speaker: The lady from Wolcott:

Mrs. Wakelee: Mr. Speaker, this Act provides that the Commissioner of State Police shall be the State Fire Marshall. He shall establish a Fire Safety Code to provide safety from fire, smoke and panic therefrom in all buildings except dwellings occupied by one or two families, and on all premises except those used for manufacturing and shall be known as the Connecticut Fire Safety Code. Same may be amended at any time by the State Fire Marshal. This code shall specify reasonable minimum requirements for fire safety in new and existing buildings. Nothing in this act shall be inconsistent with the provisions of the statutes nor impair the rights of municipalities to enact ordinances and make orders with respect to buildings as provided in

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Sub Senate Bill No. 558 (Mrs. Wakelee continued:)

Section 2602 in the General Statutes in so far as such ordinances and orders specify requirements equal to, or additional thereto, or more stringent, than the regulations issued under the authority thereof. This act provides that the Connecticut Fire Safety Code and all amendments thereto shall be registered with the Secretary of State and a copy shall be provided all local fire marshals, fire chiefs, building inspectors and such government officials as request same. Violators of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code shall be subject to a fine of \$200- or imprisonment of not more than three months or both. Each local Fire Marshal shall inspect or cause to be inspected at least once a year all buildings and facilities of public service within his jurisdiction to satisfy himself that such buildings are not hazardous to life safety from fire. A record shall be kept of such investigations. When the local Fire Marshal finds that there exists in such buildings or on any premises combustible or explosive materials or a dangerous accumulation of rubbish or flammable material, especially liable to fire which would endanger life or property, or if he shall find obstructions or conditions which would interfere with the egress of the occupants in case of fire, he shall order the conditions immediately remedied and a report sent to the State Fire Marshal. Upon receipt of such report the state fire marshall may inspect or cause to be inspected such building or facilities and may take original jurisdiction for the abatement of such hazardous condition. Any person aggrieved by an order of the local fire marshal or state fire marshal relative to the enforcement of the statutes

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Sub. Senate Bill No. 558 - (Mrs. Wakelee)

concerning fire prevention and safety may appeal therefrom to the Court of Common Pleas. Section 1001c of the 1935 supplement and Sections 491g, 492g and 493 g of the 1943 supplement to the General Statutes are repealed. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill, in concurrence with the Senate.

The Speaker: I don't believe any one in the House could hear the lady - there is so much confusion. The question is on acceptance of the committee's report and the passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate. Will you remark?

(In concurrence with the Senate,
(Without debate the report of the committee was accepted and the bill passed under suspension of the rules.)

The CLERK: Favorable report of the committee on Public Health and Safety - on SENATE BILL NO. 814 - AN ACT CONCERNING RATES FOR HOSPITAL CARE -

The Speaker: The gentleman from New London.

Mr. Kamurcir: I move suspension of the rules, sir. (The rules were suspended) This bill received a favorable report from the committee and provides for the charge or change in rates for the care of indigent narcotic addicts from \$5.00 to \$8.00 in state owned institutions. This will bring increased revenue to the state. I move, Mr. Speaker, acceptance of the committee's report and the passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate,

The Speaker: The question is on acceptance of the committee's report and the passage of the bill in concurrence

with the Senate. Will you remark?
(Without further debate,
(and under suspension of the
(rules, the bill was passed.)
(in concurrence with Senate.)