

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

<u>HB 1698</u>	PA 352 FAX	Scanned	<u>1951</u>
House	p. 1335-1340		6
	1787-1788		2
Senate	p. none		
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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
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PART 4

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MR. HITCHCOCK (WOODBIDGE):

This bill repeals section 2200 of the general statutes and substitutes in lieu thereof that any bridge or passageway over any artificial watercourse shall be constructed and maintained by the person owning or controlling such watercourse. The state or town and the person owning or controlling the watercourse shall each pay an equitable portion of the cost of reconstructing such existing bridge or passageway which apportionment shall be based upon the respective needs of the state or town and the person owning such watercourse.

THE SPEAKER:

Any further remarks? Those in favor of acceptance of the committee's report and passage of the bill say "aye"; opposed, "no". The bill is adopted.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the committee on Labor on House Bill No. 1698 An Act concerning Minimum Wages. Calendar No. 1051 File No. 637.

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

I move, sir, the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Any remarks?

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, some people would give the impression that Connecticut has lagged behind in its minimum wage provisions,

whereas the facts forceably demonstrate that Connecticut has always been in the lead in its procedures and legislation for the protection and benefit of workers. Connecticut was among the first States to enact its present minimum wage law which was used as a model by those other states.

This bill would create a minimum wage of 75 cents per hour by statute. This act establishes that by legislation action for all workers in Connecticut except those employed in agriculture or in domestic service in or about a private home, those working in an administrative, executive or professional capacity and individuals whose services are on a voluntary basis to educational, charitable, religious or non-profit organizations where the employer-employee relationship does not exist. Provision is made whereby the commissioner, with the advice of the board appointed for that purpose, may establish administrative regulations recognizing unusual conditions of employment and provisions made by employers to compensate workers on other than a cash basis, such as lodging, board, apparel. And such regulations may also recognize conditions such as outside salesmen who are compensated in whole or in part on commission and whose hours are not subject to regulation and where compensation is based in part on commissions and bonuses or special pay for special or extra work. In establishing these regulations the commissioner has the advice of people closely associated with the field to which the regulation will apply and consequently is in a position to recognize bonafide conditions which will support the intent of the legislature in establishing a 75 cents minimum wage but which

at the same time will recognize prevailing conditions not detrimental to the intent of the legislature and can make provisions whereby this legislation will not curtail employment for minors under 18 years.

It is felt that the method established by this act provides a progressive and intelligent approach to the solution of a variety of problems which concerned employers in meeting minimum wage requirements where such is established by legislation as this is. We direct your attention to the fact that every condition which exists in industry can be recognized and treated according to the circumstances which relate to that condition. This is particularly strong because by legislative action no useful group of workers are exempt from the protective provisions of this act. Those exempted, as above mentioned, are workers who do not properly come within the scope of minimum wage legislation as established. The State of Connecticut by this Act establishes a 75 cents minimum wage for all workers in Connecticut except those that are specifically exempted and recognition given to unusual conditions that exist in employer-employee relationship. Connecticut will be the first state in the United States which has established a minimum hourly wage for its workers, not that we have been lax up to the present time.

As many of you know, the national Government has passed an act which sets a 75 cent minimum wage. Our Governor has been very sincere in his efforts to get a 75 cents minimum wage for workers in Connecticut and he voted for that particular measure when he was in Congress and he has been very insistent on getting

this legislation enacted while he is Governor. It is a good law. I am sure it is workable, and we will find we can live with it. I move acceptance of this favorable report and passage of the bill.

MR. LABELLE (MANCHESTER):

This is a bill that nobody saw until yesterday because the bill that we had a conference with the Governor some two months ago in an effort to reach a compromise and he turned the matter over to the Commissioner of Labor and the bill was kept in his pocket without any consultation with anyone and yesterday it appeared on the calendar and -- well, here we are.

I have studied the bill. I think its a good bill and a good step forward on the part of the State of Connecticut. I think there are some things in the bill that were left out. One of them I think is very important. The fact that I do not find there is any provision for time and a half for over 40 hours. The Senate bill that was passed provided for time and a half for more than 40 hours. I think that omission is a serious one.

I have looked over this bill and I do not find any clause giving the power to the commissioner to increase the minimum wage where the standard of living according to the bureau of standards index has changed. Under the Federal law when it was a 40 cents law when the standard of living increased to such an extent the 40 cents law penalizes a great many workers. The Federal law now provides a clause for over 74 cents and I think we should have that clause in this law giving the commissioner that power to increase that minimum wage whenever the bureau of standards

index increases a certain percent. I think this is a serious deficiency.

By and large the bill is a good bill. I am not in any position to say whether it gets passed by the Democratic Senate or not. I think it is time that the State of Connecticut passed such a bill. The Governor of this State turned this matter over to the Commissioner of Labor and I think it is only fair to say that this legislation is legislation that was here in 1949, that all of the criticisms of the 1949 legislature were taken out of the Senate bill and even though it is not as good a bill as the Senate bill in my opinion, I think it is a good bill and we certainly are not going to oppose it. I think it is democratic legislation and we are the party that has been trying to get this legislation for years. Just because it isn't the Senate bill is no reason why we are going to oppose it and therefore I hope we pass it.

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

I say sincerely we have left nothing out of this bill. Take a look at section 4 and you will see there the section which has to do with overtime and part-time rates. It has been a sincere effort on the part of everybody connected with this legislation, including members of the Democratic side, to get a good bill out. We didn't do it hastily. We tried to do it over a period of time so that we could get any or take care of any gimmicks that might arise. This section is taken care of under section 4 regarding wages boards. I want you to know sincerely, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we have tried to work out a bill here that would be

favorable for all the workers of the State of Connecticut.

THE SPEAKER:

Any further remarks? All those in favor of accepting the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill say "aye"; opposed, "no". The bill is adopted.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Claims, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 742 An Act reimbursing Harriette Laferriere of Bridgeport.

MR. ROBERTS (SCOTLAND):

I move the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of this bill.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

MR. ROBERTS (SCOTLAND):

Mrs. Laferriere of Bridgeport while applying for a license in the Motor Vehicle Department fell on some greasy substance used for polishing the floor and was injured. Medical bills, loss of salary and other expenses amounted to the sum of \$302. Our claims Committee voted to allow her the full amount of the expenses. I hope, sir, that this bill will pass.

THE SPEAKER:

Any further remarks? Those in favor will say "aye"; opposed "no". The bill is adopted.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Claims on Senate Bill

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their corporation files each year. We now feel that \$8 may be sufficient and we ask for the passage of this amendment.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on the amendment Schedule "A" in concurrence with the Senate. Any further remarks?

Those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no". Amendment Schedule A is adopted in concurrence with the Senate.

MR. GILMAN (BOZRAH):

Mr. Speaker, we now move for acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended by Schedule "A".

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance of the committee's report and passage of the bill as amended by Senate Schedule "A" in concurrence with the Senate. Any further remarks?

Those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no". The bill is adopted as amended by Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

Disagreeing action House Bill 1698 "An Act concerning Minimum Wages" passed in the House on May 22, transmitted to the Senate where it was amended by Schedule "A".

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, I move, sir, the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended by Schedule "A" of the Senate.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on reconsideration. Those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no". Reconsideration is ordered.

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

I move, sir, the acceptance of the committee's report as amended by Schedule "A".

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on adoption of the amendment Schedule "A". Will the Clerk read it?

THE CLERK:

File 637. In Section 2, line 33, after the word "rate" add the words "of not less than seventy-five cents per hour." In Section 5, line 18, strike out the word "substantial". In section 11, line 2, strike out the sentence beginning with the word "Wage" and substitute the following: "Wage orders in effect or issued before July 1, 1951 shall be modified to provide a minimum fair wage of seventy-five cents per hour effective October 1, 1951 and shall thereafter remain in full force and effect until otherwise modified in accordance with the provisions of this act."

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is a clarifying amendment to clarify the present act and we of the committee are in favor of the amendment. I move, sir, the acceptance of the amendment.

THE SPEAKER:

Any further remarks? Question is on acceptance of the amendment Schedule "A". Those in favor will say "aye"; opposed, "no". The amendment is adopted.

Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended by Schedule "A". Any further remarks? Those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no".

The bill is adopted as amended by Schedule "A".

MRS. LEWIS (MONROE):

I have a Resolution, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER:

The Lady has a resolution. The Clerk will read the resolution.