

JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

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CONN.  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
1951

CONN.  
STATE

of the General Statutes which provides for municipal planning commission. It states that the terms of office and method of election shall be fixed under the ordinance adopted by the municipality.

Chr. Raymond: Does anyone wish to speak in support of the bill? Anyone opposed? If not, we will declare the hearing closed on substitute H.B. 71.

Substitute H.B. 72 (Mrs. Finney) A. ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWN OF GREENWICH

O. L. St. John, Town Counsel: I am in favor of it. The purpose is to straighten out the ambiguity in our special acts relating to the appointment of the officers of the board members that are referred to in the act. I haven't heard that anybody is opposed to the provisions of this bill in so far as that is concerned. This is effective upon approval of our town meeting. It would have been submitted to the town meeting had we had an opportunity. I have heard that Section 8 has caused some discussion. It deals with provision of our representative town meeting action which requires that the meeting must be called by a moderator within ten days after an application for a meeting by either the selectman, the Board of Estimate, or twenty registered voters. Under the Public Acts the town meeting is required to be convened. It uses the word "convene" within the stated time. We have interpreted the language as used in our special act, "it shall be called within ten days after application" to mean the meeting must be convened. We feel there is certain ambiguity. Under the rules of our representative town meeting, the town meeting itself has directed us to give two weeks' notice of any meeting unless the moderator for good and sufficient reason shall otherwise direct. In the substitute bill we have suggested that the words "to be held within thirty days" be substituted for the words "within ten." I can imagine there are others who would suggest sixty days or ninety days. That is immaterial with the town counsel's office. All that we ask is that the statutory provision be clarified so we know how to act when.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else in support of this bill? Anyone in opposition to this bill?

Mark Matthews, Chairman, General Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee is in favor of the entire bill except for Section 8, but on April 9th the town meeting is going to consider the whole bill. There will undoubtedly be an amendment to that section at that time. The Legislative Town meeting is the only body in the town that can speak for the town of Greenwich. We are withholding any recommendation.

Chr. Raymond: Anyone else in opposition to Substitute for H.B. 72. If not, we will declare the hearing closed.