

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 1554	P.A. 205	1953
House: 1300 - 1301		(2)
Senate: 1073 - 1075		(3)
Judiciary: 691		(1)

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

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
1953

VOL. 5
PART 4
1244-1667

saying "aye"; opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary on House Bill No. 1553 "An Act concerning Use of Switch Blade Knives or Razors to Assault Another." Calendar 859 File 533.

MR. SCHLOSSBACK (WESTBROOK):

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

THE SPEAKER:

Question is upon acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

MR. SCHLOSSBACH (WESTBROOK):

This bill, Mr. Speaker, concerns the use of switch blade knives and other knives having automatic device release 1 1/2 inch in length with intent to assault another and provides a penalty of \$1000 or imprisonment for a term of not more than five years, or both. The second portion of this act, Mr. Speaker, covers the display or attempt to use any of the weapons described in the act. All of the police departments and the State police in Connecticut are in favor of the passage of the bill. I hope it passes.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is upon passage of the bill. Those in favor will signify by saying "aye"; opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary on House Bill No. 1554 "An Act Prohibiting the Transportation, Carrying and Sale

of Switch Knives." Calendar 860 File 535

MR. SCHLOSSBACH (WESTBROOK):

Under this act it prohibits the transportation, carrying and sale of switch knives. This bill also has the support of all the police departments and the State Police. I ask for its passage.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on passage of the bill. Those in favor will signify by saying "aye"; opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Finance on Substitute for House Bill No. 1593 "An Act concerning the Commissioner of Steamship Terminals." Calendar 861 File 534.

MR. COWLES (FARMINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance and passage.

THE SPEAKER:

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

MR. COWLES (FARMINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, I believe the purpose of this bill is to change the act which created the Steamship Terminal Commission. At the present time since the act was created, the Steamship Terminal Commission, the income derived from the State Pier at New London has been put into a special fund and allowed to accumulate in the special fund and not go into the general fund. That income has accumulated to a considerable extent over a period of years and at the present time is about \$400,000 in all.

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
SENATE

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passed, retaining its place on the Calendar)

THE CLERK: Cal. No. 803. House Bill No. 1553. An Act concerning use of switch blade knives or razors to assault another. Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary. File No. 533.

(Upon motion of Senator Ward of the 1st district for acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, the bill was passed)

SENATOR WARD: Mr. President and members of the circle, this bill invokes a fine of \$1,000 and 5 years in prison to any person who carries a dirk knife or switch knife, or any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released, or having a blade of over one and one half inches in length, with intent to assault or use it to assault. I am firmly convinced we have to limit the size because it is too easy to get the blade in operation to attack anybody and I hope this kind of legislation will be recognized as something to protect the people and I hope it passes unanimously.

THE CLERK: Cal. No. 804. House Bill No. 1554. An Act prohibiting the transportation, carrying and sale of switch knives. Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary. File No. 535. .

(Upon motion of Senator Ward of the 1st district for acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, the bill was passed)

SENATOR WARD: Mr. ^President and members of the circle, this bill changes Sec. 4169 to include within the term "weapon" any dirk knife or switch knife or any knife with an automatic spring release device". This pertains to the carrying of such weapon in any vehicle

Sec. 2 changes Sec. 8540 to also prohibit the carrying of such weapon unless a permit has been issued. No permit can be issued to one convicted of a felony and the authorities issuing permits are now allowed to request finger prints. This section further requires the seller of such weapon to inform the police of said sale within 24 hours. I think we have gone into this whole situation of the carrying of switch blade knives in detail before the Judiciary Committee. I was very interested in the bill to outlaw the carrying, the sale and use of switch blade knives, because of many situations I have seen myself. I have seen young people hanging around corners and when you turn around they were able to stick a blade 4,5, or 6 inches long into you and you had no opportunity to defend yourself. It is faster than a gun. I say it is a terrible situation when young people can go into a hardware store and buy the knives, as letter openers, and then use them to assault. We have had many cases during the past year. It is time we did away with the use, sale and transportation of any knife with any kind of a mechanical spring or device, which can be easily opened. With a pocket knife, you stood some chance of defending yourself, but with these new gadgets, you stand no chance. I urge members to adopt this bill unanimously and do away with the weapon which is so easily available.

SENATOR SULLIVAN OF THE SIXTEENTH DISTRICT: Mr. President, as a former law enforcement officer for 30 years, I heartily endorse both of those bills. It is a fine piece of legislation.

SENATOR LONGO OF THE NINETEENTH DISTRICT: Mr. President, I think the Senator from the 1st should be congratulated on the interest

he has taken in this problem. Few of us realize how bad the situation is that exists in regard to blade knives. The Police officers who appeared and gave demonstrations and the Senator from the 1st ought to be congratulated in the interest in seeing this type of legislation pass.

SENATOR SADEN OF THE TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT: Mr. President, someone just facetiously informed me that the Senator from the 1st is interested in this bill so he can keep members of the CIO in order at their meetings.

SENATOR WARD: Mr. President, I wish to inform the Senator from the 22nd that it is true we do have many fights in the CIO meetings, but we are real Democrats, we don't use such blade knives. You're no good if you can't go out in the back and fight it out with your fists.

THE CLERK: Cal. No. 805. Substitute for House Bill No. 1593.
An Act concerning the Commissioner of Steamship Terminals.
Favorable report of the Committee on Finance File No. 534.
(Upon motion of Senator Lemaire of the 26th district for acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, the bill was passed)

SENATOR LEMAIRE: Mr. President, except for some minor changes, the purpose of this bill is that within 6 months after the close of each fiscal year any balance in the state pier fund, as of the close of such fiscal year, in excess of \$50,000 as shown by cash balances, accounts receivable and investments in securities less accounts payable shall revert to the general fund.

THE CLERK: Cal. No. 806. House Bill No. 1606. An Act concerning

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I want to say to Mr. Warner, who talked against the State Police that they supervise the construction of the track. You have to file your diagrams and you must adhere to the rules. They inspect the cars as to construction and the wearing of proper helmets, etc.

If there are arguments on the track, the State Police can cope with the race drivers. We do not want any Athletic Commissioner to ruin our business in the State of Connecticut like they did the boxing sport.

Mr. Finnemore, Plainville: I would not want to take the auto racing away from the State Police because we get good supervision by the State Police.

Chm. Jewett: Anyone else opposed to this bill? The hearing is closed on H.B. No. 1552. The next bill we shall take up is H.B. No. 1553.

H.B. No. 1553 (Committee) AN ACT CONCERNING USE OF SWITCH BLADE KNIVES OR RAZORS TO ASSAULT ANOTHER.

Chm. Jewett: Anyone in favor of this bill? Anyone opposed? The hearing is closed on H.B. No. 1553. The next bill to be heard is H.B. No. 1554.

H.B. No. 1554 (Committee) AN ACT PROHIBITING SWITCH KNIVES.

Chm. Jewett: Anyone in favor of this bill? Anyone opposed? The hearing is closed on H.B. No. 1554. The next bill to be heard is H.B. No. 1562.

H.B. No. 1562 (Committee) AN ACT CONCERNING INHERITANCE BY PERSONS CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

Chm. Jewett: Anyone in favor of this bill? Anyone opposed? The hearing is closed on H.B. No. 1562. The next bill to be heard is H.B. No. 1563.

H.B. No. 1563 (Committee) AN ACT VALIDATING NOTICE OF INJURY GIVEN BY CORA WHITE TO THE TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD.

Chm. Jewett: Anyone in favor of this bill? Anyone opposed? The hearing is closed on H.B. No. 1563. The next bill to be heard is H.B. No. 1585.