

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

<u>HB 768</u>	<u>(PA 306)</u>	<u>1953</u>
Cities + Boroughs:	299	1
JUDICIARY:	729	1
HOUSE:	1907-1908	2
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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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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**CITIES
AND
BOROUGHES
VOL. II
Pages 230-416**

**CONN.
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
1953**

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April 1, 1953

Rep. O'Connor, Winchester: I would like to speak in favor of the substitute for HB 155 which would protect the property owners who have water holes on their property used by the local fire departments. We feel something like this bill needs to be done to save such property owners from liability. Also at this time I would like to speak in favor of HB 768 which is a bill limiting the liability of persons authorized to report fires. Those who come from small towns know there are individuals or corporations who accept calls to report fires and this bill would relieve them of liability for negligence where reasonable care has been taken in sounding an alarm of fire. In my town we have one large corporation that has a large steam whistle used to sound a fire alarm. They do this at no cost - but feel they might be liable if the whistle should fail. There was also a factory in New Milford where the same situation exists and I believe the Seth Thomas Clock Company in Thomaston also does the same thing. There are no doubt many more. It is the feeling of these corporations that if they were held liable they would be reluctant to continue sounding these alarms. In closing I ask the committee for a favorable report on this bill.

Chr. Peterson: Is anyone else in favor of this bill? Is anyone opposed? If not, we will declare the hearing closed.

HB 768 ✓ LIMITING LIABILITY OF PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO REPORT FIRES (O'Connor)

M. Herbert, President Firemen's Association: There is not much to say on this bill after Representative O'Connor finished. This was drawn up for the difficulties coming in smaller towns reporting fires and absolving corporations from liability. May I say on the Water Hole bill that the Conn. State Firemen's Association, through Mr. O'Connor, has before the Public Health and Safety Committee HB 704 which is parallel to this bill. It is the same on liability as in this substitute.

Rep. Peterson: Has their final report been made on the study? The Legislative Council is waiting for a report.

Mr. Herbert: We have made the final report on the survey made for the Legislative Council - a sub-committee had two meetings in Hartford during the summer and they asked us to meet with them and give them information from small towns of the state who wanted water holes. Our final report was made as far as we could make it. We received questionnaires from 45 towns in Conn.

Rep. LaFleur, Thompson: I am one of a committee which served on fire calls and I feel that HB 768, for the reasons outlined, is a very good bill and should receive a favorable report from the Committee.

Chr. Savin: Is anyone else in favor of this bill? Is anyone opposed? If not, we will declare the hearing closed. On HB 768.

HB 158 ✓ PROVIDING FOR MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (McMahon Grasso)

Rep. Gadowsky, Griswold: I am in favor of this bill.

Rep. Grasso, Windsor Locks: I am in favor of HB 768, also. Speaking in favor of HB 158, I would like to register approval of Rep. McMahon who is unable to be present this afternoon and asked me to urge you to consider this bill favorably. It seems minority representation is essential to our way of living if the democratic process is to survive and the two party system must be strengthened. I also feel that minority representation serves a

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Judiciary

April 21, 1953

Chr. Pruyn: Anyone opposed? We will take up H. B. No. 768.
Anyone in favor?

H. B. No. 768 ✓ - O'Connor - AN ACT LIMITING LIABILITY OF PERSONS
AUTHORIZED TO REPORT ~~FIRE~~ *fires*

Rep. J. Raymond O'Connor, Winchester: I wish to register in favor of this bill. This bill had a hearing before the Cities and Boroughs Committee a few weeks ago. It is my understanding that because of the legal aspects of this bill, it was thought best to turn it over to your committee for action. It would limit the liability of persons authorized to report fires. In my home town we have the Gilbert Clock Company, which company blows its whistle to warn of a fire. They feel that if they become liable to a law suit, they would not want to give this service because of any failure to report the fire. The Seth Thomas Clock Company in Thomaston and several others would be affected. Individuals who might become liable are persons, such as those in Mr. Pruyn's town of Colebrook, where calls of fire are relayed by telephone. In the event the person listed first on the call card did not pass along the call for a legitimate reason, then that person could be sued. This bill exempts a person for failure to make a report of a fire. I believe it is a good bill.

Chr. Pruyn: Anyone opposed? The hearing is closed. We will take up H. B. 155. Anyone in favor?

H. B. No. 155 ✓ Vaill - AN ACT CONCERNING WATER HOLES FOR FIRE
PROTECTION PURPOSES

Rep. J. Raymond O'Connor, Winchester: I wish to register in favor of this bill also. It is similar to H. B. 768 but it applies to existing water holes instead of fire alarm calls.

Charles H. Brundage, New Haven, Treasurer, State Firemen's Association: This has the approval of every fireman in the State of Connecticut. H. B. 768 has also been approved by our Legislative Committee.

Chr. Pruyn: Anyone opposed? The hearing is closed. We will take up H. B. No. 1263. Anyone in favor?

H. B. No. 1263 ✓ - AN ACT CONCERNING A LIMIT OF FINANCIAL LIABILITY IN CERTAIN ACCIDENT CASES FOR THE
TOWN OF MANCHESTER

Rep. Sherwood Bowers, Manchester: I am also the Mayor.

1953

CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS

1953

VOLUME

PART 5

1668-2065

AGM

1913

MR. SMITH (MANSFIELD):

There will be a meeting of the Education Committee immediately in the Speaker's room.

MR. DEMPSEY (PUTNAM):

I would like to say to the distinguished Gentleman from Mansfield their place first of all is here, Sir, and I will stand up each time when the members are asked to leave this House. I would like to say to the Gentleman from Mansfield his Committee members should stay here until this House adjourns.

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

It is very interesting to see who Mr. Smith is taking his orders from these days.

MR. SMITH (MANSFIELD):

All I ask is that the deliberations be made short.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary on Substitute House Bill No. 635 "An Act amending the Redevelopment Law."

Calendar 1187 File 752.

MR. COMISKEY (MERIDEN):

May this bill be passed, retaining its place on the Calendar?

THE SPEAKER:

It may be passed.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary on House Bill No. 768 "An Act concerning Limiting Liability of Persons Authorized to Report Fires." Calendar 1188 File 743.

AGM

1914

MR. CADY (KENT):

I move for acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

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

MR. CADY (KENT):

The need for this bill arises from the fact that many of our rural towns are now yielding to the dial system of telephone. Up until now fire reports have been sent to the telephone operator who has sounded the alarm. With the advent of the dial system it makes it necessary to obtain some other way of sounding the fire alarm in your rural areas. The solution is that local citizens are being paid almost a minimal amount to sound the alarm and be available almost twenty-four hours a day. They are willing to do that but they do not want to risk any possible liability for any delay in sounding the alarm. Therefore, this bill is designed to protect them unless they are grossly negligent in so reporting.

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 Claims on Substitute for House Bill 1059 "An Act concerning Reimbursing the City of Meriden for Use of Its Sewer System by the Undercliff Sanitorium." Calendar 1190.

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CONNECTICUT
GEN ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1952

VOL. 5

PART 4

1952-1956

SENATOR JEWETT OF THE TWENTIETH DISTRICT: I would ask that Cal. 1050, 1051 and 1052 be passed, retaining their place on the Calendar.

(there being no objection, these were passed, retaining their place on the Calendar)

THE CLERK: Cal. 1053. HB 768. An Act concerning limiting liability of persons authorized to report fires. Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary. File 743.

SENATOR JEWETT OF THE TWENTIETH DISTRICT: I would move you, sir, acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

SENATOR JEWETT: Mr. President, this exempts any person or association which is authorized by the Fire Department or Volunteer Fire Co. to receive reports of fires from liability in a civil action by delay in recording such fire, unless gross negligence is proved. It is a good bill and will protect reporters of fires - citizens also.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. All in favor say "AYE" (The Senate voted YES) the bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Cal. 1054. Sub. fo HB 1059. An Act concerning reimbursing the City of Meriden for use of its sewer system by the Undercliff Tuberculosis Sanitorium. Favorable report of the Committee on Claims.

(Upon motion of Senator Kenway of the 36th district for acceptance of the committee's favorazble report and passage of the bill, the bill was passed.)