

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 1165	<PA 3717	1953
Labor	117	1
House	2134, 2224 - 2229	7
Senate	1583 - 1586	4
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3

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Labor

March 10, 1953

that the legislature, this one and in future years, will never step as low as in Massachusetts. If they want to see what they have done to the industrial picture take a look at Fall River and Brockton.

HENRY KING: I merely want to register opposition, particularly to this proposed abolition of the waiver provision. I think the Committee, before it attempts to evaluate this proposed change, should look at the present waiver provision in our Connecticut workmen's compensation law. Look at the amounts of protections that surrounds the signing of a waiver. There is no compulsion to sign the waiver in Connecticut. The waiver has to be in writing, has to be approved by the Commissioner, it can only cover accidents, or rather injuries, previous defects, and the employee has to fully apprehend what he is signing. Here again we have the same question as we had in the free choice of physicians. Here again I would like to point out that the ultimate objective is the rehabilitation of the injured employee and his welfare. By abolishing this waiver are we going to interfere with his rehabilitation. That is the ultimate question here, and I think when you ask that question your answer is no, we are not going to abolish the waiver in Connecticut.

REP. COHEN: Anyone else? We can go on to the next group of bills regarding Workmen's Compensation Act in various ways.

S.B. 56 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR INJURED WORKMEN. (*Sen. Levy*)

S.B. 141 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION. (*Sen. Sadeu*)

S.B. 522 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION--PARTIAL INJURY (*Sen. Ward*)

S.B. 527 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION--PARTIAL INCAPACITY (*Sen. Sadeu*)

S.B. 533 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR TOTAL INCAPACITY (*Sen. Murphy*)

S.B. 699 - AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASES IN WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR PARTIAL INCAPACITY (*Sen. Murphy*)

S.B. 707 - AN ACT CONCERNING AMENDING THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (*Sen. Sadeu*)

H.B. 680 - AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE OF CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION (*Liberty*)

H.B. 677 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PARTIAL INCAPACITY (*Liberty*)

H.B. 1165 - AN ACT AMENDING THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (*Cohen*)

H.B. 1166 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS (*Burkitt*)

H-17

CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY

HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS  
1953

VOL. 5  
PART 6  
2066-2475

AGM

2138

5/18/53

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Labor on House Bill No. 1165 "An Act amending the Workmen's Compensation Act." Calendar 1290 File 843.

MR. HAMILTON (GRANBY):

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

THE SPEAKER:

The bill is passed, retaining its place until tomorrow.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Finance on Substitute for House Bill No. 1693 "An Act authorizing the State to Issue Bonds for Completing the State Office Building and for Other Purposes." Calendar 1291 File 845.

MR. COWLES (FARMINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, I ask this bill be passed retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE SPEAKER:

The bill is passed, retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Agriculture on Substitute for House Bill No. 1715 "An Act concerning Vaccination of Calves Against Bang's Disease." Calendar 1292 File 838.

MR. VAILL (GOSHEN):

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

AGM

2208

5/19/53

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

I'd like to move for recess until two o'clock.

THE SPEAKER:

Those in favor of recess until 2:00 o'clock will say "aye";  
opposed? Recess until 2:00 o'clock.

(TIME: 1:30)

AFTER RECESS

(2:25 P.M.)

THE SPEAKER:

The House will come to order.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Public Health and Safety  
on Substitute for House Bill No. 705 "An Act concerning District  
Departments of Health." Calendar 1287 File 842.

MRS. PROKOP (STRATFORD):

May that bill be recommitted to committee?

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on the motion to recommit. Those in favor will  
signify by saying "aye"; opposed? The bill is recommitted.

THE CLERK:

Favorable report of the Committee on Labor on House Bill No.  
1165 "An Act amending the Workmen's Compensation Act." Calendar  
1290 File 843.

MR. HAMILTON (GRANBY):

The Clerk has an amendment.

THE SPEAKER:

The Clerk will read the amendment.

AGM

2209

5/19/53

THE CLERK:

To House Bill 1165, file 843, page one, line 23 after "or", inclose "five hundred and twenty" in brackets and insert thereafter "seven hundred and eighty" in italics. Page 2, line 39, after "than", inclose "five hundred and twenty" in brackets and insert thereafter "seven hundred and eighty" in italics. Page 2, line 46, after "or", inclose "five hundred and twenty" in brackets and insert thereafter "seven hundred and eighty" in italics."

MR. HAMILTON (GRANBY):

Mr. Speaker, In view of the fact that this amendment is part of the Committee's favorable report on this whole bill, I move the adoption of the amendment.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is upon adoption of the amendment, Schedule "A". Those in favor will signify by saying "aye"; opposed? The amendment is adopted.

MR. HAMILTON (GRANBY):

Mr. Speaker, the bill as amended - Mr. Speaker, I move suspension of the rules for the consideration of the bill as amended.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is upon suspension of the rules. Those in favor will signify by saying "aye"; opposed? Rules are suspended.

MR. HAMILTON (GRANBY):

Mr. Speaker, the bill as amended raises the weekly indemnity which will be payable for compensation, for workmen's compensation

5/19/53

from \$36 to \$40 per week. It raises the percentage of salary that may be paid from fifty per cent to sixty per cent. The bill also removes the limitation of seven hundred and eighty weeks now applicable in the event of permanent total disability to the injured employee. The amendment changes from ten years to fifteen years the payments to widows, dependents, by making it seven hundred eighty weeks instead of five hundred twenty. This bill is a bill that the Labor Committee spent considerable time and study on and it has had a number of sessions for considering it. This bill, we believe, represents a very fair and good change in the present law. The Committee feels that the bill takes care of the major changes that it had considered or had discussed. I therefore move the adoption of the Committee's favorable report and the adoption of the bill.

MR. GRIFFITH (EAST HARTFORD):

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, speaking as a Democrat, I, too, wish to say that I favor the adoption of this bill. I think it is a good bill. There are many features of this bill that were promised not only in the platform of the 1952 platform, but also in the platform of 1950. If some of these features were incorporated in the workmen's compensation act of 1950 that we amended in 1950 I would have supported the bill at that time. Instead of with the reluctance with which I did support the bill and I will hope the bill passes. Speaking as a labor representative, that is a representative from the rank and file of labor, I think the committee as a whole deserves a vote of thanks for the time

5/19/53

and work that they have spent on this bill. There are many features which labor deserves that they haven't asked and there are many things which management are beset with, but the total sum of this bill is that it is a compromise all the way through. There isn't one feature of this bill that I know of that hasn't been studied thoroughly by the Committee. I would like to give a special thanks to the majority members of the sub-committee, the Gentleman from Granby and the Gentleman from Glastonbury who worked on this bill. I also would like to thank the Labor Commissioner's office for the sincere effort with which they worked on this bill. And now, Mr. Speaker, I, too, as a Democrat and a member of the rank and file of Labor, I had better sit down before I am accused of speaking as a Republican.

MRS. HUTTON (WINCHESTER):

As one of the women members of the Labor Committee, I rise to support this bill. If I haven't learned anything else these past two years that I have been a member of the Labor Committee, I have learned that only through compromise with both sides of the question did we ever pass good legislation and I think this is an example of good legislation we can pass, through good compromise. I should especially mention the amendments which applies to the widows. I think the additional five years which will be a great help to the widows/<sup>who</sup>should have to support a family of small children and also it will allow the children in some cases to reach the age when they will be able to help in the support of the family. I hope the bill as amended passes.

5/19/53  
MR. LAING (WINDSOR):

I just want to say that I think she has brought forth in Labor a great deal.

MR. COHEN (ELLINGTON):

Mr. Speaker, I want to say for the members of the subcommittee who studied this bill for several months that they deserve the commendation of every member of this House for the untiring efforts that they expended in coming out with a bill which is overall, an excellent piece of legislation and progressive under present conditions. Labor in Connecticut is receiving a high weekly and annual wage. This will bring into line a different method of computing their compensation by raising from 50 to 60 per cent of their weekly wage and raising the maximum to \$40. It will allow for payments for life of those totally disabled and will increase the benefits for widows to fifteen years. I am sure everybody, both on the other side of the aisle and this side of the aisle will see that it is legislation which is deserving of commendation and the consideration of the people as a whole, rather than for any particular little group. Now Labor has always got a square and fair deal in this General Assembly and everybody who has been on the Labor Committee, many of them manufacturers, some of them labor people, lawyers and women, all of them have worked together in a cooperative effort to have a fine bill which Connecticut can be proud of, industry in Connecticut is proud of its workmen's compensation laws, because of the administration of these laws by the Workmen's Compensation

AGM

2213

5/19/53

Commissioner and I am sure although there are increased benefits under this act they are in line for what present day conditions call for and I hope the bill will be adopted unanimously.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended. 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. 1693 "An Act authorizing the State to Issue Bonds for Completing the State Office Building and for Other Purposes." Calendar 1291 File 845.

MR. LEE (PROSPECT):

I move the 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. LEE (PROSPECT):

This bill authorizes a bond issue of \$1,750,000 for the following purposes: For the completion of the fifth floor of the present State Office building, \$235,000. For land purchases in the state natural resources program \$25,000; In that item an earlier request for \$100,000 was reduced to \$25,000, eliminating the controversial land purchase. For control of beach erosion at Hammonasset and Sherwood Island state parks, \$500,000; for construction of a standpipe at Hammonasset state park \$30,000;

S-8

CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS  
1953

VOL. 5  
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1567-1829

THE CLERK: We have received from the House a bill entitled an Act Concerning the Corporation Business Tax , Allocation of Net Income. This was passed in the House and transmitted to the Senate.

SENATOR LEMAIRE, TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT: This should be referred to the Committee on Finance.

THE PRESIDENT: If there is no opposition, that action will be taken.

THE CLERK: Calendar 1268, <sup>House</sup> Bill 1697, File 826.

SENATOR GRANT, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT: I move acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The question is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Are there any remarks?

SENATOR GRANT, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT: This bill is to provide a general procedure for the commissioner of highways in establishing as trunk line highways any sections of highway which are required in correcting the lines of the trunk line highway, or making routes in substitute or to provide a short cut on a trunk line highway. Such changes have been in the past where it was necessary to come for special legislation for each section. By providing a single procedure to be followed in all such cases in the future, it will eliminate a lot of special acts for small sections of road.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The motion is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill - All those in favor say Aye - All those opposed No - The bill is passed.

SENATOR JEWETT, TWENTIETH DISTRICT: I move that calendar No. 1269, and 1271 and 1279 be passed, retaining their place on the calendar.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: There is no opposition, and that action will be taken.

THE CLERK: Calendar No. 1270, <sup>House</sup> Bill 1165, File 843.

SENATOR SADEN, TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT: The Clerk has an amendment.

THE CLERK: Page 1, line 23, after "or", inclose "five hundred and twenty" in brackets and insert thereafter "seven hundred and eighty" in italics. Page 2, line 39, after "than", inclose "five hundred and twenty" in brackets and insert thereafter "seven hundred and eighty" in italics. Page 2, line 46, after "or", inclose "five hundred and twenty" in brackets and insert thereafter "seven hundred and eighty" in italics.

SENATOR SADEN, TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT: I move adoption of the amendment.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The motion is on adoption of the amendment - Will you remark?

SENATOR SADEN, TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT: The purpose of the amendment is to extend in cases of widows and dependents the period of time during which they will collect benefits, from ten to fifteen years. I think the Labor Committee is unanimously in agreement with this act - I recommend passage of the amendment.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: Are there any further remarks? The question is on acceptance of the amendment. All those in favor say Aye - Those opposed No. The amendment is passed.

SENATOR SADEN, TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT: I now move acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The motion is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended. Will you remark?

SENATOR SADEN, TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT: Mr. Chairman, this bill has met with the approval of both the Republicans and Democrats on the Labor Committee and I think it is one that has been worked out in a non partisan point of view. It represents an accomplishment as far as the labor laws of the State are concerned and as far as this Session of the Legislature

is concerned. It increases the weekly compensation payment based on an average weekly earning from 50% to 60% and increases the maximum paid under the present law from \$36.00 to \$40.00 a week. It also provides a duration of fifteen years for widows instead of ten years. It provides for payments during total incapacity, regardless of how long the period may be, in lieu of the existing law, of fifteen years or seven hundred and eighty weeks.

Those are the few substantial changes in this law, and I trust it will be passed unanimously.

SENATOR WARD, FIRST DISTRICT: Mr. President, Members of the Circle. This is a wonderful bill, in my opinion - and it is the type of legislation that I have supported for many years. I had almost given up hope on the fight for extension of workmen's compensation, for life. I suppose passage of this bill shows one thing - you ought never to get discouraged. If you believe you are right, eventually others will recognize it and the day will come when you will get together to have such a law enacted. This bill is the kind of legislation we all can be proud of - the type of a bill the Senate Chairman can be proud of. As a newcomer into the Circle he guided this legislation through the Labor Committee and was instrumental in trying to bring out the type of legislation I certainly agree with, and in trying to get everyone to work together. This is the type of legislation I submitted in '47 and '49 and '51, and many times this legislation got through the Circle, only to be turned down in the House. I am at last happy for a change. This legislation passed in the House and I know it will be passed in the Senate. I hope it is passed unanimously, and I say thank you to the Senate Chairman.

SENATOR JEWETT, TWENTIETH DISTRICT: Mr. President, I would like to take this

opportunity to thank the Labor Committee for what I think is a splendid bill. I think they have done a great job and we really have a great advance among the basic labor laws, and I urge passage of this bill.

THE PRESIDENT: Are there any further remarks? The question is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended.

All those in favor say Aye - Those opposed No - The Ayes have it and the bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Calendar No. 1271, <sup>House</sup> Bill 312, File 877.

SENATOR BROLL, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT: The Clerk has an amendment.

THE CLERK: In Section 1, lines 1 and 2, delete the words "Waldo E. Clarke" and insert in lieu thereof "Nat N. Schwedel."

SENATOR BROLL, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT: I move adoption of the amendment.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The motion is on adoption of the amendment. Will you remark?

SENATOR BROLL, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT: Passage of this amendment will replace the name of Waldo E. Clarke, who passed away recently, with the name of Nat Schwedel of Rockville who is a prominent businessman and well respected in that city.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The motion is on adoption of the amendment - All those in favor say Aye - Those opposed No - The amendment is adopted.

SENATOR BROLL, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT: I now move acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT: The motion is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended. Will you remark?

SENATOR BROLL, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT: House Bill 312 is an act creating the Connecticut Development Credit Corporation and it provides for incorpora-