

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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HB 303	PA 540	1955
House 3084		(1)
Senate 957	3091	(2)
Public Welfare & H.	272-273	(2)
		(5)

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  
1955

VOL. 6

PART 6

2876-3327

June 7, 1955

AGM:AB  
0-11  
THE SPEAKER:

Any remarks? If not, those in favor of acceptance and passage say "aye"; opposed? The "ayes" have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

House Bill No. 303. Calendar No. 1681, File No. 1650.

Favorable report of the committee on Public Welfare and Humane Institutions. "An Act concerning Mentally Deficient Persons."

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (NEW CANAAN):

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

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (NEW CANAAN):

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides uniform terminology in the statutes pertaining to mental deficient by substituting the term "mental deficient" for the term "feeble minded". I hope the bill passes.

THE SPEAKER:

Any remarks? If not, those in favor of acceptance and passage say "aye"; opposed? The "ayes" have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

House Bill No. 731. Calendar No. 1682, File No. 1591.

Favorable report of the Committee on Public Welfare and Humane Institutions. "An Act concerning Order for Support of Mentally Ill Dependent."

MR. BEATTY (ROXBURY):

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable

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CONNECTICUT  
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SENATE

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THE CLERK:

House Bill 303 concerning mentally deficient persons.

SENATOR LONGO OF THE NINETEENTH DISTRICT: Unless there is objection, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable reports and passage of the bills.

THE PRESIDENT: Question is on unanimous consent for immediate consideration of the four bills. Is there objection? Hearing none, the rules are suspended. Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable reports and passage of the bills. Will you remark? If not, those in favor say AYE: opposed NAY. The "aye's" have it and the reports are accepted and Senate Bill 1345, House Bills 531, 2113 and 303 are passed.

THE CLERK: House Bill 367 concerning liability for the sale of liquor to intoxicated persons.

THE PERSONS: This bill has an amendment. We are taking it singly. The Clerk will repeat the title.

THE CLERK: Concerning liability for the sale of liquor to intoxicated persons.

SENATOR LONGO OF THE NINETEENTH DISTRICT: I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE PRESIDENT: Question is on unanimous consent for consideration. Is there objection? Hearing none, the rules are suspended. Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SENATOR LONGO: The Clerk has an amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: The Clerk will please read the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: Question is on adoption of the Resolution. Will you remark further. If not, all in favor say Aye, opposed, no. The Ayes have it and the Resolution is adopted.

(House Bills Nos. 241 through 268 were read into the record and referred to their proper committees - see pages 131-134 of the Journal, January 25, 1955) (attached hereto)

Senator Borden of the Second District  
presiding

(House Bills Nos. 269 through 308 were read into the record and referred to their proper committees - see pages 134-138 of the Journal, January 25, 1955)

SENATOR CAHILL OF THE THIRTEENTH DISTRICT: The Committee to assign seats for reporters beg leave to report that they have completed its assignment task, as follows:

Seat A, W.A.Sheehan, INS; A.H.Olmstead, Manchester Herald  
Seat B, T.Eaton, WTIC and E.Cramer, Norwich Bulletin  
Seat C, Stuart Henderson, Hartford Times.  
Seat D, Jerry Manter, UP  
Seat E, Jack Zaiman and Keith Schonrock, Hartford Courant  
Seat F, Carl J. Lalumia and G.A.Mackie, AP  
Seat G, Carl Clyma and Philip T. Casey, New Haven Register  
Seat H, W.J.Walsh, Bridgeport Post-Telegram  
Seat I, Neil Bulger, Waterbury Republican-American  
Seat J, Einar Gustafson, Middletown Press and Herman Angel,  
Meriden Record.

SENATOR CAHILL: I move that this report be printed in the Journal.

THE PRESIDENT: If there are no objections, the report will be printed in the Journal. Report accepted and committee discharged. Any further business.

SENATOR LONGO OF THE NINETEENTH DISTRICT: I move we stand in recess until 12:15 p.m.

(There being no objection the Senate stood in recess until 12:15)

JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

PUBLIC WELFARE  
AND  
HUMANE  
INSTITUTIONS

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PHYSIC WELFARE AND HUMAN INSTITUTIONS

community contributing with the state in this matter. As we now well know, there is really only one level of government, only one agency really dealing with the question in these United States of mental illness. That is the state government and, wherever we, as a state government have an opportunity to pull someone else in with us to get their interest, their cooperation and spending their money, too, this seems to me extremely wise. I hope that this Committee and the Appropriations Committee, later, can find favorably on these bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ward:

Thank you, Senator. Anybody else wish to speak in favor of? If not, anybody opposed? If not, we will close the hearing on House Bill No. 235 and go on to House Bill No. 303. Anybody wish to speak in favor of House Bill 303?

HOUSE BILL NO. 303 (Rep. Cunningham) AN ACT CONCERNING MENTALLY DEFICIENT PERSONS.

REP. Mollie Cunningham:  
New Canaan

This is a long bill but requires very little explanation. The purpose of it is simply to provide uniform terminology in the statutes relating to mental deficiency and wherever throughout the existing act the term - out-moded term "feeble-minded" is used, the more acceptable term "mentally deficient" is substituted. Thank you.

Chairman Ward:

Thank you. Anybody else wish to speak in favor of?

Dr. Appelzweiz:

I should like to call one item in the bill to the attention of the Committee and I can't seem to locate it at the moment. The item relating to the diagnosis of mental deficiency. It's on page 10, the bottom of page 10, stating that the physicians appoint one or more reputable physicians licensed to practice medicine within this state and so on. I would respectfully call to the Committee's attention the fact that the diagnosis of mental deficiency is not properly made by a general practicing physician and I would suggest that the Committee, if it be possible, to amend that section by stating an appropriate diagnosis be made by a psychologist. I think this was undoubtedly in error in writing the bill. Thank you.

Chairman Ward:

Thank you, Dr. Anybody else wish to speak in favor of? This lady over here.

Mrs. Marjorie Campbell:  
Chairman-State  
Training Schools

We would like to register in favor of House Bill 303. I might say that we have not - in drawing up this bill - we have not changed the statutes as they are now on the books except for the words "mentally deficient" so the last speaker may not be aware that that is what the statute says.

Chairman Ward:

Thank you. Anybody else wish to speak in favor of?

If not, anybody opposed? If not, we will move along to House Bill No. 1207. Anybody wish to speak in favor of?

HOUSE BILL NO. 1207 (Beatty) AN ACT CONCERNING ADMISSION OF MENTALLY ILL PERSONS TO HOSPITAL.

Mr. C. Esquire:  
State Welfare  
Department

This bill was introduced by us to simplify the transfer of patients from other states, particularly in reference to those patients, mentally ill patients, I should say who are found in either public health hospitals or in some veterans facility or servicemen's hospital. We feel that the doctors who are Commissioned Officers in the Armed Services should be allowed to sign emergency certificates which would enable the patient to be admitted to our state mental hospitals when we find that they are legal residents of the State of Connecticut and this only represents a very few cases during the period of one year. I think we only had about three last year but it involved a lot of correspondence and handling.

Chairman Ward: Anybody else wish to speak in favor of? Dr. Blasko.

Dr. Blasko: I'd like to register in favor of House Bill 1207. I think it serves a very desirable purpose and prevents hardships to some of the individuals who could be involved.

Chairman Ward: Thank you, Dr. Anybody else wish to speak in favor of?

Dr. Chairman of Board  
Torwich State Hospital  
I would just like to register in favor of this bill.

Chairman Ward: Anybody else wish to speak in favor of? If not, anybody opposed? If not, we'll move along to House Bill No. 1257. Anybody wish to speak in favor of?

HOUSE BILL NO. 1257 (Rep. Farmer) AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING IN CHILD PSYCHIATRY.

Rep. Farmer: Mr. Chairman, I'm the sponsor of the bill, also. I'll be very brief. I'm told that out of 9,000 psychiatrists in the United States, there are just about 100 child psychiatrists and when you bear in mind that an individual who wishes to be a child psychiatrist must first graduate from high school, then from college with a bachelor's degree, then spend three or four years getting a medical degree and then one year as an intern, one or two years, and then at least three years residency for a psychiatry diploma and then is not a child psychiatrist, I think you will realize that the burden of training for this specialized field is a very heavy burden indeed. These child psychiatric clinics already established in Connecticut, I'm told, find it very difficult to secure child psychiatrists for that special branch of their service and as a result, this feature is sometimes neglected.