

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

<u>NB 2140</u>	<u>PA 231</u>	<u>1957</u>
Senate 1877-79		3 p.
House 1717-18		2 p.
Jud. & Gov. Func. p. 765	( "good bill & ought to pass" )	
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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  
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS  
1957

VOL. 7  
PART 3  
1214-1913

MAY 7, 1957

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SENATOR SHANNON:

Mr. President, may that be passed retaining it's place  
on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

It may.

THE CLERK:

Cal. No. 839, File No. 560, House Bill 2140. An Act con-  
cerning the investigative powers of the General Assembly.  
Favorable Report, Committee on Judiciary and Governmental  
Functions.

THE CHAIR:

The Senator from the 21st.

SENATOR SHANNON:

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

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR SHANNON:

Mr. President, I'd like to yield to the Senator from  
the 32nd.

SENATOR BARRINGER:

Mr. President, I, too, move for the passage of this bill.

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This bill attempts to clarify once and for all the fact that the Legislature does have investigative powers, particularly the right of subpoena which, some of us felt, was guaranteed to the Legislature under the Constitution. Nonetheless, this does it beyond the peradventure of a doubt. However, I think it could be important. It hasn't been important in the last fifty years but you never can tell when this might be important in the next hundred years. It certainly is the type of power that any legislature or congress should have and I think that we are doing a good job in guaranteeing to the direct representatives of the people over the years that they can ask questions of any office holder or any group in the State and have them obey the orders and bring in the papers and respond to the legislative wish. This power is probably contained in the State Constitution in any event, but it does no harm to spell it out once and for all and that as far as the future is concerned, the legislature does have this power. It's one of these things that has little sex appeal until you need it and then it's a nice handy thing to have around. Hope the bill passes.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further. The Senator from the 21st. If not, the question is upon the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill. All those in

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favor will signify by saying AYE, opposed NO. I declare the bill passed.

THE CLERK:

Cal. No. 840, File No. 558, House Bill 2201. An Act concerning terms of the Superior Court at Stamford. Favorable Report, Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Functions.

THE CHAIR:

The Senator from the 21st.

SENATOR SHANNON:

Mr. President, May Cal. No. 840 and Cal. No. 841 be passed retaining their place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

They may.

THE CLERK:

Cal. No. 842, File No. 573, House Bill 1418. An Act amending an Act incorporating the Old Lyme Shores Beach Association concerning Annual Meetings. Favorable Report, Incorporations.

THE CHAIR:

The Senator from the 26th.

SENATOR SIBAL:

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

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CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS  
1957

VOL. 7  
PART 3  
1198-1825

Wednesday, May 1, 1957

MR. DUDLEY (GUILFORD):

Mr. Speaker, this bill merely gives to the Prosecuting Attorneys of Municipal Courts the same powers in regard to compromising forfeitures of bonds as it does to the state attorneys and prosecuting attorneys of the Court of Common Pleas. It's a good bill and will aid the administration of the affairs of the Municipal Courts and I think it should pass.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? If not, the question is on acceptance and passage. Those in favor say "Aye" those opposed "No." The "Ayes" have it, the bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 886, file 560. House Bill No. 2140. An Act concerning the Investigative Powers of the General Assembly. Favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Functions.

MR. PRUYN (COLEBROOK):

This bill clarifies the statutes in regard to the subpoena powers of the General Assembly. There has been some eminent authorities who believe that under the present language of the statute The General Assembly does not have complete subpoena power. There are others who believe that the General Assembly has such subpoena power. This bill would clarify the section and remove any doubt that the General Assembly has full and complete subpoena powers which the General Assembly and the Legislature should have. There's a typographical error in the file copy, in line 9, the second word should be "any" instead

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Wednesday, May 1, 1957

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of "and". The original bill is correct, I am just merely calling this to the attention of the Assembly and it is not necessary that any amendment be adopted. I move, Mr. Speaker, that the committee's favorable report be accepted and the bill passed.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further?

MR. TURNER (BETHANY):

I have two questions I would like to ask the Gentleman from Colebrook for information: one, does this now extend to subpoena power to the committee of the General Assembly; and two, does it in any way extend to cover the Legislative Council so that would have subpoena power?

MR. PRUYN (COLEBROOK):

In answer to the first question, that the Gentleman from Bethany has asked, under the present law as it now stands on the books, it would seem that the committee had power of subpoena, and I believe such power of subpoena has been exercised in some occasions in the past, but the language isn't entirely clear. As to your second question I believe that under the sections of the statute that relate to the Legislative Council the Legislative Council has full power of subpoena.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? If not, the question is on acceptance and passage. Those in favor say "Aye" those opposed "No." The "Ayes" have it, the bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 887, file 558. House Bill No. 2201. An Act

JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

JUDICIARY  
AND  
GOVERNMENTAL  
FUNCTIONS

PART 3  
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1957

Judiciary & Governmental Functions

April 2, 1957

Dr. Labovitz: My daughter, 13 years old, I would like to bring her up.

Chrmn. Barringer: The hearing is closed. We will take up H. B. 2140. Is there anyone in favor?

H. B. No. 2140 - Committee - AN ACT CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATIVE POWERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rep. Pallanck, Union: I wish to register in favor of 2140. I think it is a very good bill.

Chrmn. Barringer: Is there anyone opposed? The hearing is closed. That closes the hearings for today.