



Legislative History for Connecticut Act

Bill Number	Public Act	Year
HB 2404	PA 27	1959
Haesep	524-526	(3)
Shuell	518-519	(2)
Fish & Game	51-53, 55	(4)
		(9)

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
1959

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PART 2
403-829

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MR. PALMER: I move for acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER: accepted and the bill passed.

THE SPEAKER: The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill. Will you remark? The gentleman from Voluntown.

MR. PALMER OF VOLUNTOWN:

Mr. Speaker, at the present time entertainment may be given on Sundays under certain circumstances, but the law now requires that it be given only from a stage. This bill merely removes from the existing law these words "from a stage". Captain Shaw of the Connecticut State Police Department appeared and spoke in favor of the change. There was no opposition. Your committee believes it is a good bill and recommends its passage.

THE SPEAKER: Will you remark further? If not, the question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill. All those in favor indicate by saying aye, those opposed no. The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: I call your attention to the next bill. The file number is omitted inadvertently. It is File No. 27. Calendar No. 33. House Bill No. 2404. An Act concerning Lobsters. Favorable Report of the Committee on Fish and Game.

THE SPEAKER: The chair recognizes the gentleman from Ridgefield.

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MR. KEELER OF RIDGEFIELD:

Mr. Speaker, I move that the favorable report of the committee be accepted and the bill passed.

THE SPEAKER:

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

The gentleman from Ridgefield.

MR. KEELER OF RIDGEFIELD:

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a result of a conference between the commercial lobster people and the fish and game department with reference to labeling the traps that they catch the lobsters with. It's a good bill and has been thoroughly considered. I hope it is passed.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? The Chair recognizes the lady from Branford.

MRS. HAMMER OF BRANFORD:

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an amendment to a law passed in the 1957 session. That law was passed for the purpose of regulating the marking and construction of lobster pots in an effort to prevent the taking and selling of small lobsters. The law was to go into on January first of this year. As the date approached, the lobster fishermen began to realize that the requirements as set forth in the law, particularly in relation to construction of lobster pots, would work a real hardship on them. The law calls for such large escape openings that in many cases the owners

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could not remodel their pots to conform to the law and would have had to discard them and build new ones, sometimes running into five or six hundred. The Fish and Game Commission was willing to cooperate in drawing up an amendment to the 1957 law. A series of meetings was held in various shore communities and the present bill is the result. The important change is in the position and length of escapement openings required. The total length has been reduced from 48" to 24" and due consideration has been given to the necessity of placing the ballast in the pots. The pots presently in use can in most instances easily be remodeled to meet the requirements of this law. This is a good bill, and very important to the lobstermen. I urge its passage.

THE SPEAKER: Question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the passage of the bill. All those in favor indicate by saying aye, opposed no. The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 34. File No. 28. House Bill No. 2405. An Act concerning Striped Bass. Favorable Report of the Committee on Fish and Game.

THE SPEAKER: Committee on General Law.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Old Saybrook.

MR. FAIRBANK OF OLD SAYBROOK:

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

THE SPEAKER: be placed retaining their place in the calendar.

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functions of one department to that of another. It provides that the collection of motor fuel, gasoline and taxes of that sort be transferred from the motor vehicle commission to the tax commission. There is no transfer from one fund to another, as this money will still go to the highway. I move for its passage.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor will signify by saying "aye", those opposed "no". The "ayes" have it. The bill is ordered passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 110. File No. 27. House Bill No. 2404. An Act concerning Lobsters.

Favorable report of the Committee on Fish and Game.

SENATOR BOYCE:

Mr. President....

THE CHAIR:

Senator from the 12th.

SENATOR BOYCE:

I move for the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and the adoption of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

SENATOR BOYCE:

This is a bill which would somewhat strengthen the law regarding the marking of lobster pots, and have the approval of the

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lobster men. It is a bill which has developed from meetings of the group of lobster men in the central Connecticut area, the central shore area and also the eastern shore area. This bill received the unanimous approval of the committee, and has passed the House. I move its acceptance.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor will signify by saying "aye", those opposed "no". The "ayes" have it. The bill is ordered passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 111. File No. 28. House Bill No. 2405. An Act concerning Striped Bass.

Favorable report of the Committee on Fish and Game.

THE CHAIR:

Senator from the 10th.

SENATOR HEALEY:

May Calendar No. 111 be passed, retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

No objections. It may be passed, retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 112. File No. 25. House Bill No. 2652. An Act concerning Theatrical Entertainment on Sunday.

Favorable report of the Committee on General Law.

SENATOR ALFANO:

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H.B. 2404 (Reps. Hammer & Petela) LOBSTERS

Thos. Rose, representative, State Fish & Game: We are in favor of this Bill as drawn and do not approve of the words, or on the shore, being stricken from it.

Rep. Lawrence: The insertion of the line, 'provided residents of this State holding a valid license to take lobsters, etc.' Wouldn't this add to the confusion?

Thos. Rose: No. This applies only to New York.

Rep. Lawrence: But it doesn't say so.

Thos. Rose: We left it that way hoping that someday Conn. residents can fish in Rhode Island.

Rep. Lawrence: Don't you think there would be a problem of enforcement?

Thos. Rose: No. If we are properly licensed in N.Y. State, we have to conform to N.Y. laws.

Rep. Lucy Hammer, Branford: This law that was passed and to be put into operation permanently, I think, the 1st of January this year. This claims the attention of the lobster people up and down the shore. They objected to the requirements of the law, in fact, it worked a hardship on them especially in my area where they use smaller pots (36" pot) to get the required number of inches in the escape openings as is now required. They would have to give up their present pots.

Sen. Boyce: In Paragraph F - the words in the first sentence - 'The setting or placing in water or the possession in a boat or on shore'...there has been a disagreement between 2 people who testified in favor of the Bill as to whether the words or on shore should be taken out. How do you feel?

Rep. Lucy Hammer: I suppose that they figure that they might have an old pot on shore that they had before that didn't conform. Off hand I would say that that was a little bit of hardship.

Rep. Wood, Groton: I was at the meeting we had about this Bill, in the Eastern part of the State and we had about 100 lobsterman and fisherman. This is the Bill that came out of 2 meetings one in the Eastern part and one in the central part and you will find that all lobstermen are in favor of this Bill.

Mr. Rose says that we have enough conservation officers to do the job and I don't agree with him.

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The biggest trouble down there is we haven't had enough residences from the State Fish & Game as conservation officers down there and they have been getting away with murder.

Rep. Lawrence: Who has been getting away with murder?

Rep. Wood: Lobstermen.

Rep. Lawrence: Breaking the laws down there?

Rep. Wood: Yes. You can go and get short lobsters about any time. The law is no good if it can't be enforced and I am in favor of giving them the help to enforce them. These are good laws to help them.

Spoke in favor of Bill 2405 (Rep. Lawrence) STRIPED BASS

There are places where you can take striped bass and ship them off to the New York market.

If you can't enforce these laws, don't pass them.

Spoke in favor of Bill 2376 (Rep. Wood) DESIGNATION OF INLAND WATERS IN THE TOWNS OF GROTON AND STONINGTON

This Bill puts all the fresh water streams and ponds in the inland district whereby you have to have a license to fish.

I should like to put another Section in there - that this is to take effect upon its passage. I slipped up when I put the Bill in. Mr. Thorpe will stock the fish if that is added to the Bill. (Did not make clear what the other Section should be)

Lyle Thorpe, Director of State Fish & Game: Spoke in favor of H.B. 2404 and left letter signed and returned by Richard Haber advising that the lobstermen from the Norwalk, Rowayton, Stamford area were in favor of this Bill.

Rep. Edw. Petela, Branford: Spoke in favor of H.B. 2404.

R. L. Williams, Stony Creek: Spoke in favor of Bill 2404. On Page 2, line 8 - on each side of the rear etc. We have started to build our pots with 4 openings in the rear feeling that it has 4 sides. When we brought this up saying that this was a hardship, it was said that, of course, only 2 sides were meant. I suggest that the word each be dropped and 2 be put in instead.

Jos. Ottaviano, Clerk: On 2 sides?

R. L. Williams: The rear has 4 sides. The pot is divided into 2 sections. The front, the catching section and

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the rear, the holding section.

Rep. Lucy Hammer: At the present time many of the pots have just a rear opening and Mr. Williams would like to have the Bill read so that you could have one side on the end open instead of 2 sides open.

Thos. Rose: We have a lobster pot over at our office and can have it over here in 15 mins. Will you give me the word?

Sen. Boyce: Alright.

Rep. Rbt. Cairns, Madison: Spoke in favor of H.B. 2404.

Rep. J. Richard Nelson, Madison: Spoke in favor of H.B. 2404.

Rep. Dudley, Guilford: Spoke in favor of H.B. 2472 (rep. Patterson) STARFISH and H.B. 2743 (Rep. Dudley) LIMITATION ON TAKING OF SHEELFISH IN GUILFORD AND MADISON.

H.B. 2743. There are no starfish in the East or the West Rivers and if, as last year, we get a good set of oysters and the selectmen say that they oyster committees upon conference say the limit should be raised on the taking of oysters that we don't have to come back to the legislature or if its between terms of the legislature to get them to raise it to 4 or 5. We set a limit and the selectmen have conferences with oyster men and will set a limit lower. Now they already have that power by the statue but there is an ambiquity.

Rep. Lawrence: By the way this is worded, as I understand it, setting the limit at 7. Would you be agreeable to inserting the words not more than 7?

Rep. Dudley: Its assured by the mandatory line at the bottom that the selectmen are authorized to set limits in excess.

The latter part of the Bill requires that there be less than 7 as designated by the Board of Selectman.

Jos. Ottaviano, Clerk: Those lines that you added at the bottom of that Bill; just above it says that each person may take such shellfish or shells only for himself and only the quantity allowed for one person. Then it goes on to say but this section shall not prohibit the sale or resale to others

Rep. Dudley: I couldn't for instance assign my rights to have you take my 2 bushels and this gentleman over here assign his right to take his 2 bushels to you so that you would have a right by assignment a right to these 4.

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I have been in this for the last 25 years and last year we had one of the heaviest setting of oysters in the history of Connecticut fisheries.

Within 6 or 8 weeks after (inaudible) 99% disappeared.

If this continues another year, I think the oyster industry is going to disappear.

I cannot be sure but about 10 years ago we had 60 oyster companies in Connecticut; now there are 9. Starfish is one of the contributing factors.

Geo. Voglemann, Sr. Middletown: Spoke in favor of H.B. 2405. ✓

New York State has a similar bill and also Maryland. We are trying to protect the fishermen and commercial man and I think there is room for both. I don't think the fish should be destroyed or wasted.

The striped Bass is on the increase, I believe.

HEARING MOVED TO FINANCE ROOM

Sen. Boyce: Anyone else wish to speak in favor of H.B. 2405? ✓

Anyone against?

Rep. William Manwaring, East Lyme: I oppose this law as the Striped Bass law already reads that you shall have to angle to catch. You will agree that no man can make a living fishing with a hook and line.

It seems a shame that we should force people in the State who happen to want a striped bass and do not care to go out and buy a \$20. pole and a \$20. reel just for the sake of getting 1 striped bass.

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On a rare occasion have gone out and caught more striped bass than I can use and I can see no reason why I cannot sell these to the local fish market and allowing them to be sold to people who are just passing through town and would like the 1 striped bass a year and have no intention of coming down to the fishing pond.

Sen. Boyce: Anyone else against Bill H.B. 2405? ✓

If not, I declare the hearing closed on this Bill.

H.B. 2404 (Rep. Hammer & Petela) LOBSTERS

Will Mr. Rose and the 2 gentlemen who had the discussion on lobster pots and maybe between you and the members of the Committee can understand what the differences are.

Thos. Rose ; This is built to conform with the present law.