

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

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Stenographer's Notes

of

PUBLIC HEARINGS

before the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

on

PENAL INSTITUTIONS

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COMMITTEE

Senators: Gloria Schaffer, (Chm.) Woodbridge  
William J. Verrick, Waterbury  
Anthony P. Miller, South Meriden  
Joseph A. Coutu, Willimantic  
Florence D. Finney, Cos Cob

Representatives:

William A. Murray, Jr., (Chm.) Durham  
Charles K. Crary, (Clk.) Preston  
Florence S. Lord, Marlborough  
Robert H. Barnes, Montville  
Stanley A. Bigos, Enfield  
Evelyn S. Fisher, Oxford  
Esther Frankel, Hebron  
Eraine L. Genest, Prospect  
John R. Keilty, Watertown  
Marcel G. Pare, Hartford  
Narcisse I. Ravenelle, Thompson  
Robert Satter, Newington  
Patrick Lovett, Milford  
Nancy Carroll Draper, Ridgefield  
Roy S. Lee, North Stonington  
William J. Sheehy, Washington  
James J. Byrnes, Pomfret  
Mary V. Z. Cunningham, New Canaan  
Marshall N. Dudley, Guilford  
Ellsworth L. Covell, Andover

General Assembly

State of Connecticut

1959

288322

- Rep. Dudley: Of course, we are faced with the problem that you can't shoot all these youngsters. They have to be rehabilitated someplace.
- Rep. Palmer: That is true. I suppose that minor offenders, let's say, we would not object to so strenuously as we do to the bill the way it is written now.
- Rep. Dudley: If I am not mistaken, they objected very strenuously when the CCC camp was established in Voluntown back in the thirties.
- Rep. Palmer: The CCC camp was not established to rehabilitate criminals, am I not correct?
- Rep. Dudley: That is correct.
- Rep. Palmer: It was to give somebody some work and it took them off the street.
- Rep. Dudley: But they objected at that time.
- Rep. Palmer: I suppose.
- Rep. Barnes: I should like to know if you know how many acres are in the state-owned property there?
- Rep. Palmer: Roughly about 13,000 or 14,000 acres. Around 60% of our town. We are mostly a reservation. Us old natives, we're like the Indians. We are gradually being pushed out.
- Rep. Barnes: And how close is this property to the nearest populated area?
- Rep. Palmer: You can stand there most anywhere and reach out and touch state property.
- Sen. Arthur H. Healey, New Haven. I'd like to go on record as being in favor of S.B. No. 526 (Healey) APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PAROLE, and S.B. No. 638 (Healey) THE BOARD OF PARDONS.

526, as you will note, indicates that the purpose of it is the appointment of an executive secretary of the Board of Parole and 638 concerns the Board of Pardons. The few remarks I have to make I will confine to 638. I have studied the bill and it is my feeling that there certainly is an amount of elasticity insofar as the present bill is concerned. For example, the Board of Pardons in the first sentence it is indicated that it shall be composed of three appointed members.

Sen. Healey: Should the committee come out with a bill indicating more, four or five, certainly I see absolutely nothing unacceptable about that. As you will notice, the bill in effect makes the Board of Pardons, gives it the status of a Commission in that it must be submitted to the Senate for approval after appointment by the Governor. I certainly would feel that it would be unobjectionable if this committee should decide that it were to go to either house for purposes of being approved. I urge your favorable action on both these bills and thank you for your time.

Chr. Schaffer: Thank you. Are there any other members of the General Assembly who wish to be heard?

S.B. No. 526 ✓ If not, then we will now open the hearing on S.B. No. 526 (Healey) APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PAROLE.

Is there anyone who wishes to speak in favor of this bill?

Is there anyone who wishes to speak in opposition to it?

Then we will declare the hearing on 526 ✓ closed.

S.B. No. 638 ✓ The next bill to be heard will be (Healey) THE BOARD OF PARDONS.

Is there anyone who wishes to speak in favor of this bill?

Anyone who wishes to speak in opposition to it?

I'd like to remind you that if there is anyone here who would like to register either in favor of or in opposition to any bills there is a sheet for that purpose up here.

The hearing on S.B. No. 638 ✓ is closed.

H.B. No. 2223 ✓ (Reps. Lord, Dudley, Draper, Mansfield)  
ESTABLISHING A FORESTRY CAMP FOR BOYS.

Chr. Schaffer: Is there anyone who wishes to speak in favor of this bill?

Rep. Frank E. Calhoun - Cornwall. I am appearing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association who are very much in favor of H.B. No. 2223, ✓ ESTABLISHING A FORESTRY CAMP FOR BOYS. For some time this association has been interested in such a

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CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS

1959

VOL. 8

PART 10

3988-4479

WEDNESDAY - MAY 20, 1959

BK  
A-156

THE SPEAKER:

If there are no objections it will be temporarily retained.  
Passed over retaining.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 1063. File 619

Sub. for S.R. 638. An act concerning the Board of Pardons.

Favorable report of Penal Institutions.

THE SPEAKER:

Gentleman from Newington.

MR. SATTER:

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

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage of the bill in  
concurrence with the Senate. Will you remark.

MR. SATTER:

"This bill does 3 things: (1) it reduces the number from the  
Board of Pardons from 6 to 5 removing the Governor as one of the  
members; (2) it provides that a commutation of a sentence may be  
had not only when a person is confined in a state prison as is  
the present law but where he has been convicted of any other  
offense against the state, and (3) it provides the appointment of  
a secretary trained in the law to act as a clerk for the Board.  
I urge the passage of the bill."

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. Question is on acceptance and

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passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate. All in favor? Opposed? "Ayes" have it. Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 1072. File 886.

Sub. for H.B. 3066. An act concerning the Legislative Research Department.

Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Functions.

THE SPEAKER:

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Britain.

MR. GOOGEL:

I move the acceptance and passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark.

MR. GOOGEL:

Under the present law the Legislative Research Dept. is under the direction of one Legislative Commissioner. This act would provide for the appointment of 2 Legislative Commissioners. They would have equal powers in matters of control over the Legislative Research Dept. Upon passage of this bill 2 commissioners are to be appointed; one's term to be until July 1, 1961 and the other one until July 1, 1963. Thereafter, one commissioner is to be appointed annually for 4 year terms. The 2 commissioners are not to be of the same political party, and their annual salary is to be \$7500 per year.

I trust this bill will receive the favorable votes of members of this House!!

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CONNECTICUT  
GEN ASSEMBLY  
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1959

Vol. 8

Part 4

433-875

May 7, 1959

favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Remarks?

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

This bill simply allows the board of parole to appoint their own executive secretary. The power now exists with the director of the state prison. I urge the passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Are there further remarks? The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Those in favor signify by saying "aye", opposed "no". The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 556. File No. 619. Substitute for Senate Bill No. 638. An Act concerning the Board of Pardons.

Favorable report of the Committee on Penal Institutions.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Schaffer, the 14th district.

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

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

THE CHAIR:

Remarks?

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

This bill reduces the numbers of the members of the board of pardons by one. The Governor no longer will be required to serve on the board; because the five members of the board carefully

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found out as before. A fixed rate of compensation has been struck out of this bill and will be determined by the personnel board. The powers of this board will apply to any person who is convicted of any offense against the state. Previously, the board of pardons had jurisdiction over only the state prison. The new powers of the board will be confined to, will not be limited rather to those of the state prison. The bill provides for the appointment of a secretary trained in the law, instead of simply a clerk as is now indicated in the law. In this state the Governor has the power of reprieve. The power of pardon is vested in the board of pardons through the legislature and I believe it is an inherent with our concept of separation of powers to pass this bill. I believe this bill will strengthen it."

THE CHAIR:

Are there further remarks? The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Those in favor signify by saying "aye", those opposed "no". The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 557. File No. 618. Substitute for Senate Bill No. 204. An Act concerning Bastardy Actions.

Favorable report of the Committee on Public Welfare and Humane Institutions.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Healey of the 10th district.

SENATOR HEALEY:

Mr. President, may this be passed, retaining its place?