

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

H.B. 3903	<PA 409>	1961
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JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

CITIES AND  
BOROUGHES

PART I

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CONN.  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

1961

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CITIES AND BOROUGHES

Chm. Pickett: Thank you, Mr. Trotter. Would you, please, file what you have to file with us? Further proponents for S. B. 779? Opposition? Mr. Burnes.

Mr. Burnes: Mr. Burnes of Hartford, legislative chairman of the Connecticut State Firemen's Association. I would like our organization as opposed to any change of any statute that would weaken the assumption of liability for damage caused by firemen. For matter of brevity, I would like to leave a statement of some of our organizational material on it. Thank you very much.

Chairman Pickett: Thank you very much, Mr. Burnes. Any other speakers?

Mr. Flanagan: Mr. Chairman, I am Andrew Flanagan, treasurer of the Connecticut State Firemen's Association. At an executive session of the State Association last Friday evening, it was unanimous that the organization is in opposition to any changes, at the present time, in benefits for the volunteer or paid firemen. Therefore, the association, through its executive committee, is in opposition to S.B.779.

Chm. Pickett: Thank you, sir. Further speakers on S.B.779?

Mr. Kerschner: I am Leonard Kerschner, secretary-treasurer of the Uniformed Firefighters Association of Connecticut. Again to make this brief, I would simply state that our organization does not wish to expose municipalities to new coverage. However, we're not satisfied with the language proposed in S.B.779. Simply, we think it goes much further and we seriously can see liability protection afforded firefighters. We would like some more attention, concern and consideration paid to this language before it is doctored. Thank you.

Chm. Pickett: Further speakers on S.B.779? Declare hearing closed on S.B.779. Open hearing on H.B.3903. Mr. Fairbanks.

H.B. 3903 (Reps. Fairbank and Endrich)-AN ACT PERMITTING BOARDS OF FINANCE TO MAKE MINOR EXTRA APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. Fairbanks: Very briefly, I'm in favor of H.B. 3903. Last fall in Old Saybrook, the selectman had two occasions to call a special town meeting to obtain funds of approximately \$1800. One of them was for a concrete sidewalk at the school, the other was for a wooden building which was destroyed at the town dump and was replaced with cinder block construction. The selectman brought it to my attention that it would

## CITIES AND BOROUGHS

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 1961

- Mr. Fairbanks: be very desirable if this so-called extra appropriation limit was raised from \$1000 to \$2000. I talked with many board of finance people, many legislators, and it seems to be the consensus of opinion that a figure of \$2000 would be more realistic, at the present cost of municipal administration. Thank you.
- Chm. Pickett: Thank you, Mr. Fairbanks. Further speakers on H.B. 3903? I have been requested to go out of order and call H.B. 3999. Proponents of H.B. 3999.
- H.B. 3999<sup>✓</sup> (Rep. Sheehan)-AN ACT CONCERNING ADVERTISING OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR BIDDING ON INSURANCE.
- Rep. Sheehan: I should like to explain that it is my bill. The bill, as it is presented to the committee here, is incorrectly drafted. The additional two lines at the bottom of the first page should be underlined and the three lines on the reversed page should be deleted. The bill has been occasioned by a request from certain municipal authorities who have thought to place their insurance coverage deemed necessary to properly cover their particular town on a bid basis. It did not seem to me that there was anything in the present statute, which is a foregoing section of the bill, to prohibit this, but certain people in the insurance industry offered this as an excuse, that they felt that they were jeopardizing their valuable license to sell insurance. Therefore the bill is presented. I'm not quite certain whether it should be before the Cities and Boroughs Committee, but we will make an additional copy of the testimony and argue its jurisdiction with insurance at some future date before it is finally acted upon. Anyone else wish to speak either for or against the bill? Former Rep. Franklin Brown of West Hartford.
- Mr. Brown:- Members of the Committee. This bill came to my attention two days ago and it is my job, as an attorney in one of the Traveler Company, to look at this bill. This proposed bill makes a change in section 38-59 of the insurance law. Now that law prohibits any rebates or any other kinds of inducement to procure an insurance policy. It's very fundamental law in Connecticut. Now, so far as I know, it has never had any bearing at all on competitive bidding by municipalities. So far as I know, many municipalities, many state, I think, departments, state committees have sent their insurance by competitive

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May 26, 1961

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SENATOR FARMER:

I rise in question of information. Since the bill is passed isn't it necessary to vote to reconsider before it can be re-committed.

THE CHAIR:

I understand it is the same bill.

SENATOR FARMER:

Perhaps I misunderstood the Senator.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Pickett will you explain.

SENATOR PICKETT:

Yes, I will be happy to, Mr. President. We have passed the House Bill on Page 9, Cal. No. 924. That will now go to the Governor. The one on Page 6, it is a Senate Bill, there would be no point in passing that - it is a duplication.

THE CHAIR:

Cal. No. 898. Senate Bill No. 1229. The question is on re-committal. Any remarks? If no remarks those in favor of re-committal signify by saying "aye". Opposed. Senate Bill No. 1229 has been recommitted.

THE CLERK:

Page 9 of the calendar. Cal. No. 926. File No. 880. Mod. House Bill No. 3903. An Act concerning Extra Appropriations by Town Boards of Finance.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Pickett of the 33rd district.

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SENATOR PICKETT:

Mr. President, I move for acceptance of the committees favorable report and passage of this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

THE SENATOR PICKETT:

Mr. President, at the present time when a town wants to appropriate money in excess of \$1,000 during a fiscal year, it must go through a town meeting for approval. Because of the inflation and the rising cost of everything it was the feeling of the committee that the figure should be changed to \$2,000 when it applies to the larger towns, that is towns having a grand list of over \$20,000,000. If you will look also on line 20, 21, 22, etc. in the bill you will find there are appropriate safe-guards to prevent any misuse of the change in the statute. I think it is a reasonable bill and move its passage.

THE CHAIR:

Any further remarks? If no further remarks, the question is on the acceptance of the committees favorable report and passage of the bill. Those in favor will signify by saying "aye". Opposed. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Cal. No. 927. File No. 887. House Bill No. 4008. An Act concerning the Annual Report of the City Clerk of Torrington.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Pickett of the 33rd district.

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or removal by impeachment. We all know that in the present term when Governor Ribicoff resigned, according to the Constitution, Governor Dempsey assumed the powers and duties but did not, according to the statement in our Constitution, assume the title of Governor. It seems very important that this section of the Constitution should be clear so that when the Governor does resign, die or is removed from office, the Lieutenant-Governor becomes the Governor of the state in title as well as in responsibility. That is the purpose of the Resolution and I urge its adoption.

GENTLEMAN FROM COVENTRY:

Mr. Speaker, the resolution has been thoroughly explained and it is a good resolution. I urge its adoption.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? If not all those in favor say aye, opposed no. The ayes have it, the resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK:

Modified H.B. 3903. Cities and Boroughs. An Act concerning Extra Appropriations by Town Boards of Finance.

GENTLEMAN FROM HAMDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. This bill merely amends the general statutes in respect to extra appropriation by town boards of Finance by allowing those towns which have a grand list in excess of 20-million dollars to appropriate to their Boards of Finance the sum of \$2,000 without the necessity of a town meeting. It considers the present prices and the shrinking dollar and is legislation that is needed in the larger towns. I trust it will pass.

LADY FROM NEW CANAAN:

I again see this title, 'modified' house bill. Can I have an explanation of what that means?

THE SPEAKER:

The Chair's understanding is that a modified house bill ~~has~~ is called that if there was any minor change in the bill when it went into the Legislative Commissioner's Office. It is not a substitute bill as it is not a change of substance but it is a change that the Legislative Commissioner has made to comply with or to become a bill to be brought properly before us. It is not of major consequence but it is so indicated so that those who are familiar with the bill are aware of the fact that there may be some change in it from the original bill. It has been agreed upon by both sides.

Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying 'aye', opposed no. The ayes have it, the bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

H.B. 4437. Committee on Finance. An Act to Include Dentures and Eyeglasses under the Sales Tax.

GENTLEMAN FROM ESSEX:

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of this bill. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Clerk has an Amendment. (The Clerk read the Amendment)

GENTLEMAN FROM ESSEX:

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the amendment. I don't think any explanation is necessary. This amendment was requested by the Tax Department.

THE SPEAKER: