

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

SB 407	PA 199	1963
Public Welfare - 378-379		2
Senate - 1588-1589		2
House - 2883-2884		2
LAW/LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY		6p.

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate  
and House of Representatives Proceedings

Connecticut State Library  
Compiled 2015

JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARING

PUBLIC WELFARE  
AND  
HUMANE  
INSTITUTIONS

CONN.  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
1963

## PUBLIC WELFARE AND HUMANE INSTITUTIONS

TUESDAY

APRIL 2, 1963

Dr. Bloomberg (cont): coordinate then we can leave out some things that we would otherwise have to do that are being done by the study commission because when we undertake our overall planning program, unless we can plan to present a comprehensive overall planning program which must of necessity include services to children, we will not qualify for the Federal money that is available.

We are very close to being able to announce the appointment of a qualified planner. I can't tell you who he is but we're in negotiation and I think we will be well on the way. And we would welcome any directive that gave us a (inaudible) of qualified people that so long as it was coordinated with the overall comprehensive effort. Thank you.

Chairman Curtis: Are there any other proponents on S. B. 406? Any opponents? If not we will close the hearing on S. B. 406 and go to S. B. 407

S. B. 407 ( Sen. Pope) PROCEEDING FROM COMMITTEE ON HOSPITALS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS.

Chairman Curtis: Does anyone wish to speak for this bill?

Dr. Wilfred Bloomberg, Commissioner of Mental Health: May I call to your attention the fact that S. B. 407 is very similar to H. B. 4443 but with one significant and important difference. This bill, S. B. 407, is aimed at providing that the commitment of a patient under our Probate Court commitment laws, which require examination by two qualified physicians, shall be changed so that one of these two physicians shall be a specialist in mental disease. To this moment, there is no such requirement and any commitment proceedings requires only a licensed physician. This bill will provide that one of the two examining physicians shall be a practicing psychiatrist. Now the further change in S. B. 407 is to specify that instead of not being connected with a hospital for mental illness (as the law now reads) the psychiatrist shall not be connected with the hospital for mental illness to which the patient is being committed. This is in order to protect constitutional rights, to avoid the railroading that people some-

## PUBLIC WELFARE AND HUMANE INSTITUTIONS

TUESDAY

APRIL 2, 1963

Dr. Wilfred Bloomberg (Cont): times worry about, to avoid the possibility that anybody would be committed to a hospital by a member of that staff just in order to get him and have him paid for.

This becomes possible now. Formerly there just weren't enough psychiatrists available to do this. It becomes possible now with the increase in the number of voluntary admissions and the drop in the number of commitments. However it still wouldn;t work if the psychiatrist could not be connected with any hospital because in that case almost every psychiatrist in the State would be disqualified by the law and this is the essential difference between S. B. 407 and H. B. 4443. The House bill continues to specify "shall not be connected with any mental hospital" and I think this would simply make it unworkable.

I would ask your favorable consideration to Senate 407.

Chairman Curtis: Thank you Dr. Bloomberg. Any questions from the committee? Anybody else wish to speak on S. B. 407? For the Bill? Anyone opposed to this bill? If not we will close the hearing on 407. We will now have

S. B. No. 408 (Sen. Pope) PAROLE OR TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS.

Dr. Bloomberg, Commissioner of Mental Health: The content of Senate 408 is to correct the defect in our ability now to treat and handle patients adequately. The present law, and since some of this comes from our increased reliance on other methods of admission rather than Probate Court commitment, and problems have come up.

Many of our patients are now admitted to our hospitals on the so-called 30 day emergency detention certificate. This is an extremely useful and desirable method of admission but according to the present law, since it was an emergency admission, during the 30 days that this permitted the hospital to hold the patient, he could not be sent home for a week-end trial at home, or for a week's trial to see how he would get on, because by doing this, this indicated that the emergency was over and then did not permit his return under the original paper. It required

S 50

CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1963

VOL. 10, PART 5

MAY 15 - MAY 21

1524 - 1897

S28.2s

C76pr

s

Leg. Ref.

Vault 3

CONNECTICUT  
STATE LIBRARY

SENATOR PICCOLO:

Mr. President....

THE CHAIR:

Senator from the 11th.

SENATOR PICCOLO:

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

THE CHAIR:

Remarks?

SENATOR PICCOLO:

Mr. President, it is a good bill and it ought to pass.

THE CHAIR:

Further remarks? The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report. All in favor say "aye", "opposed". Passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 470. File No. 489. Senate Bill No. 407.  
An act concerning proceedings for commitment to hospitals for mental illness.

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

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

Mr. President....

THE CHAIR:

Senator from the 14th.

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

I move the acceptance of the committee's favorable report

May 15, 1963

66

and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Any remarks?

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

Mr. President, this bill is merely to provide that instead of two licensed physicians acting as committing agents that one of them be specifically a practicing psychiatrist and it also provides that the psychiatrist shall not be affiliated with the institution where the person will be committed.

THE CHAIR:

Any further remarks? The question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report. All in favor say "aye", "opposed". Passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 471. File No. 490. Senate Bill No. 408.

An act concerning parole or temporary absence of mentally ill patients.

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

THE CHAIR:

Senator from the 14th.

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

Mr. President, may that bill be passed retaining its place?

THE CHAIR:

Passed retaining its place.

H 66

CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS

1963

VOL. 10, PART 7

MAY 16 - MAY 21

2558 - 2888

328.2s

C76pr

h

Leg. Ref.

Vault 3

CONNECTICUT  
STATE LIBRARY

Tuesday, May 21, 1963

131

MR. SPEAKER:

It will be passed retaining.

THE CLERK:

Calendar no. 690, file no. 461. Senate Bill No. 875.  
An Act concerning Duty of State Traffic Commission in  
Relation to Grade Crossings. Favorable report of the Joint  
Committee on Public Utilities.

MR. BROWN (EASTON):

Mr. Speaker, may this be passed retaining?

MR. SPEAKER:

The bill will be passed retaining?

THE CLERK:

Calendar ;no. 691, file no. 489. Senate Bill No. 407.  
An Act concerning Proceedings for Commitment to Hospitals  
for Mental Illness. Favorable report of the Joint Committee  
on Public Health and Humane Institutions.

MR. RUSSELL (WESTON):

Mr. Speaker, I move for suspension of the rules for  
immediate consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is on suspension of the rules. All in favor say  
Aye. Those opposed No. The rules are suspended.

MR. RUSSELL (WESTON):

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

EJN

Tuesday, May 21, 1963

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

MR. RUSSELL (WESTON):

Mr. Speaker, this bill relates to the commitments to mental hospitals and the previous rules had been that two physicians were necessary for commitment. The bill changes the rules to require that one of the physician be trained in psychiatry and a further requirement of this bill is that the psychiatrist not be a member of the staff of the committing hospital. This bill has been well considered by the joint committee, it has been supported by the Commissioner of Mental Health and it is a good bill and I move its passage.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark further? If not, will all in favor say Aye. Those opposed No. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar no 694, file no. 462. Modified Senate Joint Resolution No. 30. Resolution concerning a Study of Sanitary Facilities in Boats on Lake Candlewood Lakes, Harbors and Marinas. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Water Resources and Flood Control.

MR. PLATT (MILFORD):

Mr. Speaker, I move for suspension of the rules for immediate consideration.