

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 3332	PA 110	scanned	1965
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JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

PUBLIC

PERSONNEL

CONN.  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

1965

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 7, 1965

H.B. No. 3332 (Rep. Repko) EMPLOYEES NOT INCLUDED IN RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Mr. Leonard B. Kirschner, Uniform Firefighters Association of Conn.: The purpose of this bill is to cause our state's statutes to conform with the federal law. The federal Social Security Act excludes from coverage, from Social Security coverage, all members of police departments and fire departments that are covered by a state or local retirement system. Our state law, and I think that this is only a technical mistake made in the drafting of the bill only excludes policemen and firemen who are covered by the state retirement system but does not exclude those who are covered by local retirement systems. The purpose of this bill again would be simply to bring our state law into conformity with the federal act and exclude all policemen and firemen who are covered by either the state retirement system or by a local retirement system. The bill would not apply or this exclusion would not apply to those policemen, firemen who are not covered by a state or local retirement system or who are not -- who are presently covered by Social Security. The -- I would point out to the Committee that Social Security is a federal program and therefore I think it's only logical that our state law conform with the federal act. Our international union has traditionally and historically opposed the encroachment of Social Security on state and local retirement systems. We have peculiar needs calling for early retirement and we feel that the Social Security program while it's served a marvelous useful purpose generally, it should not, it does not properly apply to policemen and firemen. We think that this technical change which we are suggesting is a sound one and we would respectfully urge the committee to return a favorable report on this bill. Thank you.

Rep. Raymond Spielman, Vernon: In the municipal retirement act, is there any provision for survivorship?

Mr. Kirschner: No, there is not.

Rep. Spielman: In other words, there would be no protection for children, such as -- well, in the state retirement system we have supplemented our state police department. In the first \$4800 they pay 1%. Do you then want the same thing in the municipal line.

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Mr. Kirschner: We have attempted to accomplish this same purpose, Mr. Spielman, by the establishment of a survivors' benefit fund for policemen and firemen. That bill was reported out favorably by this committee in last session and adopted by the General Assembly and we testified on that bill for some technical changes to that bill earlier in the hearing, I think before you got here, but there is now provision for benefits for policemen and firemen. Now under state law and it is handled by the state retirement committee, the fund is established and which is handled by the state retirement commission.

Sen. Gaffney: Any other questions?

Mr. Kirschner: I just would -- while I have one further comment with respect to the question raised by Rep. Spielman, that is that because of the exclusion does appear in the federal law under no circumstances can the policeman and firemen who is covered by a state or local retirement system be covered by Social Security in any event you see. The prohibition appears in the federal law therefore I think that the same prohibition ought to appear in the state law and in fact it does appear with respect to those police and firemen who were covered by the state Municipal Employees' Retirement system but it does not appear for those covered by the -- by just the municipal system. We're suggesting conformity.

Rep. Spielman: Do you think that the salaries of firemen and policemen are established with the idea that there will be an early retirement -- that they will supplement that with another position where they can't earn Social Security and then get another retirement?

Mr. Kirschner: The salaries of policemen and firemen are always established with the cost of pensions and the -- as part of the total wage package. When you negotiate with the municipal employer, all factors relating to the total wage package are taken into consideration including pension costs.

Sen. Gaffney: Anyone else in favor of H.B. 3332? Anybody opposed to H.B. 3332? Hearing none we'll go on to our next bill, H.B. 3845. Anybody in favor of H.B. 3845? Anybody opposed to H.B. 3845?

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amended. All those in favor say "aye", "opposed". The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Page five of the Calendar. Calendar 461. File 297.  
Modified House Bill No. 3332. An act concerning employees not included in the municipal employees' retirement system.

Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

SENATOR GAFFNEY:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR GAFFNEY:

Mr. President, certain types of government employment are given the protection of municipal retirement systems. At the present time, federal legislation allows selected groups of people the who worked for governments not to be covered under social security. Individuals in our policemen's and firemen's retirement systems fall in this category. However, in the event changes occur in federal legislation, there is a serious question as to the status that would befall our police and firemen. By inserting the phrase "or local retirement systems" the Public Personnel Committee has been advised the police and firemen's organizations believe their people would be protected and be able to remain under the municipalities retirement systems. Although

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this is an "if something occurs, then this act will take over" piece of legislation, the Public Personnel Committee believed that the safeguard should be written in to our own Connecticut statutes. While this bill may seem complicated on the face, I assure you that it is no more complicated than the federal social security act which I know is very simple to all of us. I, therefore, move adoption of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Further remarks on the bill? The question is on the passage of the bill. All those in favor say "aye", "opposed". The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 487. File 511. Senate Bill No. (3432) 1342. An act concerning a curb assessment by the City of Bridgeport on property of Cecilia Barske Et Al.

Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Cities and Boroughs.

SENATOR GLADSTONE:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR GLADSTONE:

Mr. President, this involves a curb assessment by the City of Bridgeport on property of fifteen or sixteen years ago which

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Gentleman from Willington whether or not this is a built in additional cost to the operation of the University of Connecticut.

MR. REPKO:

Through you, Madam Speaker, no.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? The question is on acceptance and passage of the bill. All those in favor please say "aye", those opposed. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 339, File No. 297, Modified House Bill No. 3332. An Act concerning Employees not Included in the Municipal Employee's Retirement System. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

THE SPEAKER:

The Gentleman from Willington.

MR. REPKO:

Madam Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark? Thi

MR. REPKO:

This bill simply brings the state law into conformity with the federal law with respect to those employees who are excluded from Social Security coverage. It only applies to police-

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men and firemen who are covered by their own retirement system and who are excluded from social security coverage under the federal law. This is a good bill and should pass.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? The question is on acceptance and passage of the bill. All those in favor please say "aye", those opposed. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 340, File No. 298, Modified House Bill No. 2187, An Act concerning Retirement Credit of Margaret A. Wiggin. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

THE SPEAKER:

The Lady from Tolland.

MRS. LOJZIM:

Madam Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

MRS. LOJZIM:

This bill will enable Margaret Wiggin to purchase credit toward retirement for a period of service with the Stratford Welfare Department. It's a good bill and I move for its passage.

THE SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage of the bill. All those in favor say "aye", those opposed. The bill is passed.