

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 65-281

✓	Act Number:	281	Year:	1965
	Bill Number:	HB 2422		
	Senate Pages:	2032		1
	House Pages:	2680-2681		2
	Committee:	Education 203, 235-238		8
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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate
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CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1965

FEB. SPEC. SESSION

VOL. 11, PART 3

JUNE 3 - JUNE

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June 4. 1965

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THE CLERK:

Calendar 1073, file 959, HB 4840, An Act concerning Retirement of Employees in the City of Torrington. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Cities and Boroughs.

SENATOR GLADSTONE:

Mr. President, I move the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. This bill sets up a retirement system for the employees of the City of Torrington in that they have to be 65 years old with 20 years service and it goes on to give details of the plan. It's a good bill and it ought to pass.

THE CHAIR:

All in favor? AYE. Opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 1076, file 991, HB 2422, An Act concerning Membership of Board of Education Members on School Building Committees. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Education.

SENATOR SCHAFFER:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. The purpose of this bill is merely to clear up an ambiguity which will now clearly states that members of boards of education or regional school boards can serve on building committees if they are so chosen.

THE CHAIR:

All in favor? AYE. Opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 1077, file 943, modified HB 2425, An Act.

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Wednesday, June 2, 1965

Are there further remarks. If not, all in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 877, File No. 990, Substitute for House Bill No. 4805. An Act concerning Education of Nonresident Children in Custodial Homes and Licensed Homes for Children.

THE SPEAKER:

The gentleman from Warren.

MR. LAGROTTA:

Mr. Speaker, I move the 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 further.

MR. LAGROTTA:

Mr. Speaker, this places with the town of origin of the children who are placed in licensed homes for children or institutions the obligation of paying for their education, which is less than a year. This is a good Bill, and I urge its passage.

THE SPEAKER:

Are there further remarks. If not, all in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 878, first item on the top of Page 8, File No. 991, House Bill No. 2422. An Act concerning Membership of Board of Education Members on School Building Committees.

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Wednesday, June 2, 1965

Favorable report Education.

THE SPEAKER:

The gentleman from Warren.

MR. LAGROTTA:

Mr. Speaker, I urge 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.

MR. LAGROTTA:

Mr. Speaker, this merely puts into statute the fact that one of the members of the School Board may be a member of the Building Committee. This is a good Bill, and I urge its passage.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. If not, all in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 879, File No. 954, House Bill No. 2011.
An Act concerning Monthly Reports of the Tax Collector of Guilford. Favorable report Finance.

THE SPEAKER:

The gentleman from Middlebury.

MR. WHITTEMORE:

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bill.

JOINT
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- Mr. Regene: I consider speaking for the superintendents that this is one of the most important pieces of legislation that may arise. We have many of the smaller community superintendants expressing fears as to the impact on the financial situation in the town and therefore, speaking for the group, this would largely be a matter of concern for the smaller town superintendents. Thank you sir.
- Mr. Bennett: I am George Bennett, Farmington, Conn., Principal of the high school there and the chairman for the Legislative Committee for the Conn. Association of Secondary Schools, CASS. I simply wish to add our indorsement to both of these bills. Thank you.
- Rep. LaGrotta: Thank you. Is there anyone else who cares to speak for these two bills? Anyone opposed?
- Rep. Mayer: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, very briefly on H.B. 2422, 2424, only to explain the need for these bills. Presently, there have been two towns in the state that have come to my attention, one being Wethersfield and the other East Granby, in which the town council has ruled a member of the school board can not serve on a school building committee, or at least have a vote on that committee; this bill would not require membership of boards of education on school building committees, but would only permit it. I think it is a good bill and I urge your support. Thank you.
- Rep. LaGrotta: Thank you. Are there questions? Any other members who would like to speak?
- Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Mr. Miller, Coventry; I would like to speak against bill 722, 713, I mean 913, and 914. I'm appealing to you as a board as the rights of the constituents of the state of Conn. These bills, which are very strongly worded will take these rights away from them and I am appealing to you through the constitutional rights which everybody has, both national and state. If you will read the Constitution of the Federal United States and the Constitution of Connecticut, you will find that these sort of things can not be done. Of course the states' rights are not as important as the Federal Constitution Rights are. As outlined in various chapters of the Constitution. The fiscal responsibility of a committee should be to the people of the towns and cities or the council or any form of government which the state has, Given the right, as is in these bills is giving the power of dictatorship over anybody in this state, for which there is no recourse, unless you appear before the Supreme Court of the United States, and I don't believe anybody has the mind, or the time in this particular thing to do this sort of thing among the poor class of people, the people who will be hit by

enumeration through - up to 21. We did one year ask the towns to do this on a voluntary basis and received cooperation from them and were able to produce the date of that year. We can't do this every year on a voluntary basis and we are asking simply that the ages be extended.

Rep. LaGrotta: Dr. Fay, that ...have you any idea how much that would cost some of the communities to get that additional information, is it much?

Rep. Fay: We could figure out the amounts there. At one time the Legislature authorized them to pay ten cents a name but the Legislature removed that limit so that they do pay for it now and we would be glad to give you an estimate of the number in that particular agency. May I also state while I am here that the Board would support S.B. 213 and in H.B. 2422, and 2424. There has been a great deal of confusion brought about by some of the recent local decisions with respect to membership of school board members on school building committees. You can trace back through the years, I think, and find it is, generally been thought previously, that it was a good thing to have some representation and in many towns the Board of Education is an entirety (inaudible) but I think at this point because of the difference in rulings that have been made, the simplest way is the clarification of the law by the General Assembly.

Rep. LaGrotta: Thank you Dr. Fay. Anyone else care to speak?

Rep. Wilson: Margaret S. Wilson, Secretary of Conn. Association of Boards of Education and Chairman of the Norwich Board of Education and I would like to speak in favor of H.B. 2581, approval of a site by Board of Education. We are very strongly in favor of this and I cite you one example. Several years ago, a local Board of Education thoroughly researched three sites and brought The State Board of Education into this; we rejected one site, the city council bought this site, we knew that there would be problems there, it may have been a matter of judgement but the trouble could have been avoided with this bill. We still are having trouble with the schools with things that we knew would happen. The water is running through corners of the building. We, after two years, have a building which is unacceptable to the Board of Education, and this would have been avoided if approved by us in the beginning.

Rep. Harold (inaudible) of Connecticut Central State College. I am speaking on S.B. 400. A Professor of immediate concern for us is Dr. Fu who has been with us for three years and if the law is not changed his services will have to be terminated; because other colleges are making

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him offers and we are desirous of maintaining his services we would like for you to handle the bill expeditiously. Dr. Fu, however, is only an example of the general situation. In recent months we have lost, or we will lose six members of our professional staff because of this Statute. Your favorable consideration of the bill would be much appreciated and I would like to leave with the Committee a statement of Dr. Weltes' concerning Dr. Fu. Thank you very much.

Rep. LaGrotta: Thank you very much. Mr. MacDonald.

Rep. MacDonald: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee. I am Executive Director of C.A.B.E., may I speak in favor of H.B. 2422 and S.B. 215. This has the unanimous support of the School Boards in the State and our School Board questionnaire. I think that it is very important that we have (inaudible) on Building Committees. In most of the towns the Building Committee is the Board of Education and in other towns it is a mixture of Board members and others. Because of the turning opinions in the State we urge you to approve this bill and make it possible for a Board to act on the building commission. Thank you.

Rep. LaGrotta: Anyone else care to speak.

Rep. Rogene: I, on behalf of the Conn. Association of Public School Superintendents, Mr. Edward Rogene, Bloomfield, support S.B. 151 and H.B. 2588 on work-study programs. This seems to be a most promising approach, meaningful, helpful and in particular will assist many of the schools in preventing dropouts. We feel this is a very desirable bill. We would also like to support H.B. 3563, on the transfer and distribution of Federal Funds submitted by Mr. Hartnett and also H.B. 2422, membership by the Boards of Education to coordinate the activities of school building committees. Thank you.

Rep. Doran: Guy, may I ask a question, I meant to ask it earlier?

Rep. LaGrotta: Surely.

Rep. Doran: Doran, Berlin; In our town we operate this way. We have always had a exofficio capacity member of the School Board on our Building Committee, very important where a school is involved but we have a permanent Building Committee which meets for many other reasons and has a great amount of activity. Now, I wonder, having been a past member of that Board myself, how much time a person would have to serve on a Board of Ed. as well as on a Building Committee in a voting capacity?

- Rep. Rogene: Well may I speak from personal experience. I have three Building Committees. One is just about completing the work, another is starting a new project, and another is in the process of construction and in 11 years that I have in Bloomfield we've constructed approximately \$800,000,000. on construction; as you know it is a rapidly growing suburban community. We found that a member of the Board of Education to serve and expedite the communication between the two boards so that there is never a question on delay and in this way we feel the relationship is kept on an excellent cooperative level at all times. We have had a minimum of difficulties so that we have instead of a permanent building committee, we have appointed building committees by the town Council and in all cases a member of the Board of Education has been appointed to serve so they have been different members so it does not take the time of one individual.
- Rep. Doran: The building in your town was schools altogether?
- Rep. Rogene: Well they built a town hall and a library too but what I meant was, each individual project and referendum has had a separate and distinct building committee appointed by a town Council but they have always appointed a member of the Board of Education on any school project.
- Rep. Doran: You didn't answer my question, you realize?
- I realize you asked me a question and I said I can only speak from my personal experience. If you indicated a permanent school building committee, that there might be a conflict with dates and a conflict with times with a member of the Board of Education, I can appreciate this might be true, but I think in an unique situation this community is less common than in others.
- Rep. Doran: Might I clarify that it is not unique, the situation.
- Rep. Rogene: It is probably less common than in others. Well, number of towns have permanent Building Committees. I realize that and this is a problem just as well as in other communities, the Board of Education has their own building committee.
- Rep. Doran: I realize you might not want to answer this question but would you suppose it would serve the purpose you are after if there was a requirement in the Statute saying that a member of the School Board must be or shall be an exofficio member of the Building Committee, just as a selectman is now. A first selectman in any town today, this is the general law, is exofficio member of all boards

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in town. This gives him an opportunity to be liaison and see what the business is.

- Rep. Regene: Well I think, what I mean, without preparation and I can't confer with other superintendents. If it reached a stage where his vote was going to make that much difference I would hope that the two boards would get together and see if they couldn't settle their differences. In other words, the vote whether he is exofficio and does not have voting powers, I would hope would never be a decisive factor in the work of the Building Committee.
- Rep. Doran: Than from a practical standpoint; I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, but exofficio probably would serve the purpose.
- Rep. Regene: I would hope that all working in honestly and true spirit that the point of whether the man has the right to vote or not, would not be an important factor.
- Rep. LaGrotta: Thank you. Anybody else wish to be heard?
- Rep. Stapher: I'm Dr. Joseph Stapher, State Dept. of Health; Dr. Franklin Foote, Commissioner of Health, has asked me to appear before the Committee and inform the Committee that the State Dept. of Health is in favor of bill S.B. 1012, an act concerning use of eye protective devices. The State Dept. of Health feels that the adoption of this bill would meet the prevention of serious eye injuries. Thank you.
- Rep. LaGrotta: Dr. have you had injuries - is this critical?
- Rep. Stapher: I can't answer that question.
- Rep. LaGrotta: Is there anyone else who wishes to speak?
- Rep. Phillip: Alfred Phillip, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of three professional associations and two CSEA chapters representing approximately 150 employees in the State Dept. of Education. I am speaking in favor of S.B. 613 H.B. 2814. These people who provide consulting professionals administrative services for the Vocational Educational Schools, the Institutions, Rehabilitation Services, etc., have suffered a number of inequities over the past several years, specifically in the 1963 General Assembly, partial funds for salary adjustments for some of these personnel were undertaken. In the transition approximately 20% of the employees involved received no salary adjustments and an additional 20% realized only token adjustments. Further the professional employees in the department continue to be at a serious salary disadvantage compared with personnel of similiar responsibility in local Boards of Education. These are Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, etcetera. As a result, administrative staff of local Boards of Education tend to receive higher salaries than