

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 2668	PA 178	Scanned	1967
House 1465 - 1466			(2)
Senate 1052			(1)
Public Welfare + Humane Inst. 41-44			(4)
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CONNECTICUT
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PROCEEDINGS

1967

VOL. 12

PART 4

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CONNECTICUT

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1967

VOL. 12

PART 3

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JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

PUBLIC WELFARE

1967

Thursday, April 27, 1967

25.

the town hall.

MBS

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? If not, the question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. All those in favor say Aye. Those opposed no. The Ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 190. House Bill No. 2668. An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact on Children. Favorable report of the committee on Public Welfare and Humane Institutions. File No. 204.

DR. MORRIS N. COHEN, 41st DISTRICT:

Mr. Speaker, I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of this bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

DR. MORRIS N. COHEN, 41st DISTRICT:

Mr. Speaker, House Bill No. 2668 which is an interstate compact on the placement of children is endorsed by the council of state governments and is similar to other state compacts already in effect. Among these are the interstate compact on juveniles, involving juvenile delinquency and the compact on mental health and the compact on welfare services. This compact provides an opportunity to place children in the most suitable environments to meet his needs. It provides the state, into which this child is to be received, the opportunity to determine suitability of the placement plan. It provides for appropriate jurisdictional

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arrangements for the supervision and financial responsibility for the child. As soon as the child leaves the border of the state the agency having both legal and financial responsibility in that state, goes into court to request termination of its responsibilities. Connecticut will benefit from this compact. When children are to be placed in Connecticut from other states. I urge the passage of the bill.

MBS

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? If not, the question is on the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. All those in favor say Aye. Those opposed no. The Ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Page 3 of the Calendar. Calendar No. 206. House Bill No. 2105. An Act concerning the Possession of Evidence of Participation in Certain Types of Gaming. Favorable report of the Committee on General Law. File No. 231.

WILLIAM R. RATCHFORD, 167th DISTRICT:

Mr. Speaker, move recommittal.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on recommittal. All those in favor say Aye. Those opposed no. Now the bill is recommitted.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 209. Senate Bill No. 469. An Act concerning Payment for Fences Between Agricultural Property and Park and Forest Commission Property. Favorable report of the committee on Agriculture. File No. 130.

May 11, 1967

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referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 352, file 204, HB 2668, An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact on Children. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Welfare and Humane Institutions.

SENATOR BARBATO:

Mr. President, I move the acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. This compact provides an opportunity to place children in a most suitable environment to meet their needs. It goes along with the other compacts with the various states surrounding our borders. I think it's a good bill and should pass.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? The Senator from the Twenty-Fifth.

SENATOR POPE:

Mr. President, I would like to join in urging the passage of this bill. This fills in the gaps that occur in interstate treatment of children. It carries out on an interstate basis what most states do on their own jurisdiction already.

THE CHAIR:

Would you remark further? If not, all in favor of the passage of this bill, signify by saying Aye. AYE. Contrary minded? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 353, file 403, SB 1972, A Act concerning an Appropriation to the Order of Women Legislators. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Appropriations.

the state board of Mental Health be increased from 7 to 11 members, retaining the present number of psychiatrists on the board. This supports S.B. No. 1411. I feel with the recent and contemplated expansion in our state in the field of Mental Health, there should be as wide a representation on the board as seems consistent for a good working committee, to cover the development in the field. I believe there is far too much work in the way of policy making, of supervision of existing facilities, of decision making, of transition to a concept of community Mental Health, to expect of a smaller sized board. A larger board, with board representation from the community, could certainly give closer supervision to present practice in all our hospitals. It could also be a more vital force in giving better interpretation to the public of what is going on in the field. Thank you.

Sen. Barbato:

Any other proponents? Any opposition? Hearing none we will close the bill on S.B. No. 1411 and go on to S.B. No. 1414, An act concerning adoption of Interstate Compact on Child placement. I think we should take H.B. 2668 at the same time.

John Harder:

Dupty Commissioner for Connecticut State Welfare Department. I'm here to testify in behalf of S.B. 1414 and H.B. 2668. The department is introducing H.B. No. 2668 which is an interstate compact on the placement of children, endorsed by the Council of State Government, and is similar to other interstate compacts already in effect. Among these are the "Interstate Compact on Juveniles" involving juvenile delinquents, the "Compact on Mental Health", and the Compact on Welfare Services, to mention a few.

This compact provides an opportunity to place children in the most suitable environment to meet his need. It provides the state into which the child is to be received the opportunity to determine the suitability of the placement plan, It provides for appropriate jurisdictional arrangements for the supervision and financial responsibility for the child. We believe this compact will prevent; 1) indiscriminate placement of children from out of state in unsuitable arrangements. 2) attempts to evade legal and financial responsibility for the child's care. 3) avoidance of responsibility for making appropriate plans for the child's future.

While Connecticut has always carried out the spirit and letter of the compact, as outlined, when it places its children outside the state, this is not always true of

other states. It has happened that as soon as a child leaves the border of the state, the agency having both legal and financial responsibility in that state, goes into court to request termination of its responsibilities. Under the compact provisions this could not occur and Connecticut will benefit from this compact when children are to be placed in Connecticut from other states.

The following states have adopted the compact as of December, 1966: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Kentucky, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Many other states are introducing it into their legislative session. There is reason to believe that this is going to move into other states as well. I could review each session, in detail, I think for some people we may need to do so. The volume of children that are placed across the state line, are not great. I would not attempt to make you believe this, but at any given time we may have 100 to 150 children, but in any given year it might be 50 or 100. The fact that the volume is small does not make this less important. Most of these children arrange to work out satisfactory. Periodically there are a few situations where a child, say literally gets dumped in Connecticut without adequate protection. These things and I don't think they are deliberate, do happen. What we are urging your committee to do is to pass this compact and then as other states have similar compacts, we'll be operative and they will be required as we presently do to give a state information in advance of placing a child into a state, to make adequate arrangements for supervision and to assure the continuance of legal relationship. Finally if movement is to be made to be relieved of legal responsibility toward the child, that we should know about it before it happens and could make appropriate arrangements or putting it into action. That about sums it up. Minor problem in some ways but a very important one.

Rep. Clark:

Section 9 on the last page, section one of this act to appoint a compact administrator for determine said article seven. The mainpoint that I am concerned with is the executive head of this department to this compact.

John Harder:

In Connecticut I think, sir, I believe on page seven. Some where in here it specifies in Connecticut it will be - what section - section five - it specifies shall mean the welfare commission. That's it. Now in these other states it is very possible they would designate their welfare commissioner or their commission on entire welfare. But in our state it would be commissioner Shapiro

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Sen. Finney: (inaudible)

John Harder: Well let me give you an example. Back a few years, in Delaware, the parents had left the state and settled in Connecticut. After a period of several years the parents decided they wanted the children back. They went back to Delaware and we were warned that this thing was developing. They brought the children back and you want to remember now that these two teenagers were living with their parents for several or more years, had been very satisfactorily settled in Delaware and doing well. As soon as the parents brought them back, Delaware went into court and got a termination, and in effect there was trouble for this family. If Delaware did not move in this situation - - You are quite right, man.

Edward Harold: For the Connecticut Child Welfare Assoc. We are in favor of S.B. No. 1414. I will not repeat what Mr. Harder has already told you, but I would like to say that Connecticut is fortunate to have a tremendous child welfare assoc. and we keep our house in order. We make sure the children are well protected beyond the state line. This compact is simply to bring about the complete protection of children wherever they may be, where ever they may be moving. I might add one further point, this interstate compact was also approved by the welfare laws and was recommended and enacted into law. It was introduced into the legislature 2 years ago.

William McKay: Greater Hartford Community Council. I would like to appear in favor of the bill. (inaudible)

Frances Roberts: State Department of Mental Health. I'm not sure that I should be on your records because our department has not taken an official position that I know of on this bill. We had some evidence on our own interstate compact on mental health, that might be of interest to the committee. Connecticut was one of the first states to enter into 1965 and there are two points, in our experience that might be of interest to you. 1. The fact that some 10 states have initially been in this has now risen to 33, which I think supports the comments that Mr. Harder made. It becomes increasingly harder for states to refuse to stay out of the compact. The other is the fact that in the course of this period of time, the number of cases that are dealt with by our compact administrator had not grown

in any great number. Last year the number was some where around 250, and it has been around that for the past few years. And the number is just about even on what comes in or goes out. I think the mental health implication of the interstate compact on children are obvious to all of you. Certainly these children are high risks in terms of breakdown and emotional servenants. And above all these are the children for whom the decision of placement should be placed on, the goodness of the child. Thank you.

Sen. Barbato:

Are there any other proponents? Any one to speak in opposition? Hearing none we will close the hearing on S.B. N^o. 14 and H.B. 2668 and open the hearing on S.B. No. 2643, An Act concerning Sworn Statement in Welfare Cases.

John Harder:

Dupty Commissioner of the State Welfare Department. I do have a short statement. This bill, ladies and gentlemen would eliminate from law the requirement the Connecticut State Welfare Department processing an application for assistance - would eliminate the requirement that this application be notarized. What it subsitutes instead is a formal certified where the applicant says I certity that the fact that I have given a true and correct and etc. so help me God and signs his name. Why we want to get rid of this, is primarily because it is costly, involves a lot of red tape the public likes to critisize, and quite properly so, and it's an adminstative headache. Our experience with strong notarized statements has been an unnecessary expense to the state, without any concomitant gain in terms of dollars spent. In the past year, expenses for having staff made notaries and for having commissions renewed exceeded \$2000.00 a year. We have been faced with the problem of either having clerks made notaries and have this thing paid for by the department or what we did was in each office have a number of non-professional staff made notaries and since we are taking applications all over, convelesant hospital, people's homes, general hospitals, you also than have to have a sizeable number of your professional staff' also made notaries. Even thought considerable numbers of staff (103) have been so empowered, there still have been administrative problems stemming from growth of staff, normal turnover, vacations and sick leave, which result in loss of time, delay in handling applications, and confusion.

This proposal has been carefully reviewed with the Attorney General's office and other legal authorities