

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 4255	PA 815	1967
House 4827-4828		(2)
Senate 2477-2478		(2)
Public Personnel 351-354		(4)

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CONNECTICUT

GEN ASSEMBLY

HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS

1967

VOL. 12

PART 10

4936

Monday, June 5, 1967

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I move the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report in passage of the bill.

MW

THE SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE 135th

MR. SAMUEL LISKOV, 135th DISTRICT:

This is an act concerning licenses to funeral directors and embalmers and sets forth the educational requirement and qualifications for the various licenses issued by the State Board. It is a housekeeping bill setting forth the additional educational standards and for a comprehensive regulation of this particular profession. I urge its adoption.

THE SPEAKER:

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

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1407, House Bill No. 4255, An Act concerning Permitting Early Retirement under the Municipal Employees Act.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE 130th:

MR. CHARLES W. MIZAK, 130th DISTRICT:

I move acceptance of the Committee's favorable report in passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE 130th:

MR. CHARLES W. MIZAK, 130th DISTRICT:

This changes the early retirement provisions of the municipal employees

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retirement act which is statewide. It reduces, in line 12 of your file, the required years, the fifteen years of continuous service to ten years of continuous service to elect early retirement.

THE SPEAKER:

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

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1409, House Bill No. 4906 An Act concerning an Increase in the Retirement Allowance of Municipal Employees who are Members of Fund B of the Municipal Employees Retirement System.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE 130th:

MR. CHARLES W. MIZAK, 130th DISTRICT:

I move the acceptance of the Committee's favorable report in passage of the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE 130th:

MR. CHARLES W. MIZAK, 130th DISTRICT:

This changes the service under Fund B of the statewide municipal employees retirement system, from 30-years to 25-years of active service in order to elect voluntary retirement.

THE SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage. All those in favor will say aye. All those opposed. The bill is passed.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM THE 44th:

MR. PETER A. CROMBIE, 44th DISTRICT:

May Calendar No. 1409 be passed retainance?

MW

HB 4906

The Calendar number and bill title are apparently in error.

Rep. Mizak's comments are directed to HB 4260, which was Calendar number 1408; The Journal Clerk corrected the Clerk's error, and HB 4260 is shown as passing the House on June 5.

HB 4906 was, in fact, passed by the House on June 6 (see pp. 5025-5027. in House Proceedings).

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report and passage of the bill as amended. Mr. President, the bill is self-explanatory.

THE CHAIR:

Any further remarks? If not, all in favor of the passage of this bill, indicate by saying Aye. AYE. Opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 1557, file 1564, modified HB 3168, An Act concerning Credit in the State Retirement System for Public School Teaching Service. As amended by House Amendment Schedule "A". Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

SENATOR MARCUS:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill as amended. The bill is self-explanatory, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark on this bill? If not, the question is on passage. All in favor, indicate by saying Aye. AYE. Opposed? The bill as amended is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 1558, file 1569, HB 4255, An Act concerning Permitting Early Retirement under the Municipal Employees Retirement Act. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

SENATOR MARCUS:

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

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self-explanatory.

THE CHAIR:

Further remarks? If not, all those in favor of the passage of this bill, signify by saying Aye. AYE. Opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 1559, file 1570, HB 4260, An Act concerning Eligibility for Retirement under Fund B of the Municipal Employees Retirement System. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

SENATOR MARCUS:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. The bill is self-explanatory.

THE CHAIR:

All those in favor of the passage of this bill, indicate by saying Aye. AYE. Opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 1560, file 1372, substitute HB 4791, An Act concerning the Presumption concerning Hypertension or Heart Disease in Policemen and Firemen. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Personnel.

SENATOR MARCUS:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. It is a good bill and should pass.

THE CHAIR:

Further remarks? If not, all those in favor of the passage

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TUESDAY A.M.

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Mr. Dzialo: (continued)

I would also like to address myself to H. B. 3322, an act concerning supervision of state employees in classified service at the state armories. As an officer in charge of a state armory, I cannot enforce this bill and I urge you not to report favorably on this bill, simply because every armory is a unique facility. Each armory has its own problems and I think that the decision as to employee requirements at these particular armories should be left to the local commander. We have a man up here in Hartford making decisions and running the show, so to speak, for armories around the state and I believe we have some 30 odd armories. Frankly, I don't believe the job could be properly done. Not that the people here in Hartford are not qualified to do it, it would be too time consuming and they would have to have an enormously large staff and I don't frankly feel that the state would be getting the most out of the situation. I think what we have right now is a workable program and I think it should be left as such. Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr. Janovic: Are there any questions? We will now recognize Senator Burke.

Mr. Burke: Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of your committee. Very briefly I would like to support H. B. No. 3721 and H. B. No. 4043. I urge your committee to bring a favorable report on both of these bills. Thank you.

Mr. Janovic: Thank you Senator. H. B. 4043 has also been heard with S. B. 721. We will go on to

H. B. No. 4255. (Rep. McLoughlin of the 132nd Dist.) AN ACT PERMITTING EARLY RETIREMENT UNDER THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ACT.

Phillip Trager, on behalf of the Bridgeport Municipal Employees' Assn. This association has as its membership approximately 700 of the 1,000 people in Bridgeport who are under Fund B. This bill and several bills following concern Fund B, and with your permission, I'd like to address some general remarks to the bills as a group. Fund B. has as a pension plan lagged behind both the state retirement system and private industry. It is

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Mr. Trager: (continued)

a fund that is on an extremely sound actuarial basis and an extremely conservative basis. The actuary takes 3.4% for the return when it is actually 4.10 and the fund in the last two years alone, since the last session, has grown from 17 million plus to over 20 million dollars. No allowance is made for certain resignations and other things which have put this on an extremely sound and conservative basis. The end result has been that the contribution of the City of Bridgeport has been reduced recently from 13.7% to 9%. So we have the unique situation, gentlemen, where the fund has grown and gotten more wealthy and the employees have gotten no benefit. The Bridgeport Municipal Employees have introduced bills in the Legislature for several measures, there have been no appreciable or material benefits gained and there have been several changes that have been made for the state employees or changes that are in Fund A which have not been made for the Fund B employees. I might also point out that these employees pay 5% of their salary toward this fund whereas in fund A, the police and fire pay 2%. I would respectively submit that as a matter of just plain incentive for municipal employees and as a matter of fairness and equity, the time has come for these changes to take place, especially since the reductions did not redound in the benefit of the employee, They did not get any greater benefits nor was their contribution decreased. Addressing myself specifically to the bill in question, this bill would reduce the time for vesting of retirement rights from 15 to 10 years, so that it would enable earlier retirement with vested rights with a proportionate reduction of benefits for earlier retirement. I believe that the state employees already have this and I would submit that this is one of several benefits more in line with other pensions.

Rep. Holdridge:

You speak about the financial position of Bridgeport, are all the other cities in the same good condition as that?

Mr. Trager:

You see, Fund B, to my understand, only has Bridgeport, Windsor or Windsor Locks and one or two or three other entities, and each one has gotten this reduction, in other words, it would be my understanding, they were committed for an amount and now it's been reduced.

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- Rep. Duda: Do these bills propose any vesting rights as in fund A?
- Mr. Trager: We are concerned only with Fund B. Fund A, I believe, has ten years at this time.
- Mr. Janovic: Anyone else wish to be heard on bill no. 4255, in favor of?
- James E. Hoskins: Again I'm not speaking for the commission which takes no position on changes of such, but I think to some extent, the member towns spoke to the commission to represent their interests and I believe two years ago, a meeting was called of representatives of all the member towns in the municipal system and among other things they agreed to support a bill providing for vesting in both fund A and fund B. This committee gave such a bill a favorable report, but somehow it got lost in the shuffle and wasn't passed. In one of the earlier hearings this year, reference was made to the fact that four towns had withdrawn from the municipal system and I know that in at least one of those instances the withdrawal was because the system did not have any provision for vesting. Mr. Trager, I think, was a little in error in saying that fund A does have a provision for vesting. It does not, neither fund does and this bill provides for, as he said, vesting after ten years in fund B, and after 30 years in fund A. I really think fund A member towns would be glad if the 10 year vesting as well.
- William Rosenberg, Treasurer of the City of Bridgeport Supervisors' Association: We want to register in favor of Bill No. 4255.
- Henry Gross, President of the Bridgeport Municipal Employees' Assn.: We feel that these bills are long overdue. As a matter of fact, our fund has grown so rich in the past few years, that we have taken the liberty to have a private insurance company from Hartford, Travelers, come in and study the program as an entirety. If we withdrew from the state and went to a private fund, we could actually increase our benefits by 30% and in some respects, perhaps in another two or three years, we would reduce our

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Gross: (continued)

cost for the employee to this fund. They felt that the fund was making money but on a very conservative nature, whereas, in an outside fund such as Travelers, they could possibly bring in a greater sum of money. Now in the last two years our fund has increased by two million. Travelers felt that this should have been at least three and one-half to four million dollar return. And we, the employees, feel that this fund is enriching itself, and the city was able to cut their contributions from 13.7 to 9, and ours stays at a static 5%, that perhaps the time has come now for us to receive some minute benefits, at least in a vested rights manner, because if an employee works for the City of Bridgeport say for 12 years and then through some reason must leave his position, all he gets is his money returned with no interest, and we feel this is unjustified. So far we've had a 15 year vested right for the last 12 years and under this act, only one employee has taken advantage of this. Most employees who come to work for the city work out their full term before they retire, that is. So I feel that at least this bill here should be reported out favorably. Thank you.

H. B. No. 4260. (Rep. McLoughlin of the 132nd Dist.) AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIREMENT UNDER FUND B OF THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Philip Trager, Bridgeport Municipal Employees' Assn.: This bill would reduce the number of years necessary for eligibility for retirement from 30 to 25 years. I believe that Fund A presently has this benefit. It's another bill that would streamline Fund B and bring it up to a level of other plans. It would affect a very small number of employees, probably less than 20, and experience has shown in any event that many employees eligible for benefits do work past the minimum retirement age. Thank you.

Henry Gross, Bridgeport Municipal Employees' Assn.: This particular bill on the 25 years, we feel that we and the City Employer agree. Our local Police and firemen are allowed to retire after 25 years of service and yet only pay 2% of their total salary into a fund for this purpose. We pay in 5 and we must work 30 years or reach the age of 55, and we feel now that the program is actuary sound enough to allow us this