

Act Number	Session	Bill Number	Total Number of Committee Pages	Total Number of House Pages	Total Number of Senate Pages
PA 71-117		6909	7	2	2
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 153 • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 179-182 • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 190 				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1440-1441 	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1160-1161

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

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PART 3
974-1450**

Tuesday, April 13, 1971 97.

Further remarks on the Bill. If not, all those in favor EFH indicate by saying "aye". Those opposed. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 287, H.B. No. 6909, an Act permitting persons over eighteen years of age to donate blood without parental permission in certain instances.

JOHN D. PRETE:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Question's on acceptance and passage. Will you remark.

JOHN D. PRETE:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill allows young people between the ages of 18 and 21 to give blood without parental consent. There is a serious shortage of blood for medicinal purposes in the State of Connecticut at this time, and the Bill works in the direction of resolving that shortage. I urge the passage of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the Bill.

LUCIEN A. DIMEO:

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Bill, which is the first Bill that I introduced in the House. It, in my opinion, the trend today is towards giving youth more and more responsibility, and I am highly in favor of that. Not only giving them some of the responsibilities and also the privileges of adulthood. But privileges must be balanced by responsibilities. And I think that

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youth today wants to become involved, and one of the ways they can EFH become involved in a very human way is to donate blood. It's sorely needed. This Bill only allows for blood to be donated. It is (inaudible) blood which would be sold. But only by...it can be only collected by those organizations which accept blood on a donation basis. And while we have received the support from this Bill from educators, from the people in the medical profession, the only negative aspect that I heard from anyone was the question of whether the youth of this age, with some of their problems, might create a health problem. I checked this thing out with competent medical authority, and they've assured me that certainly as we all know at 18 years of age that we are...we were...those of us that have passed it...we were, at that age, at our healthiest. And the youth today is certainly capable physically and certainly want to participate, and they should be allowed to participate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the Bill. If not, all those in favor indicate by saying "aye". Those opposed. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 289, substitute for H.B. No. 5098.

CARL R. AJELLO, JR.:

Mr. Speaker, may Calendar No. 289, substitute for H.B. No. 5098, be passed retaining its place.

MR. SPEAKER:

Without objection, so ordered.

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SENATE

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Question is on passage for the bill. Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor signify by saying, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 273. File no. 223. Favorable report of the joint committee on Judiciary. House Bill 5661. An Act Concerning Approval by State Referees of Land Purchase on Highways.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Mr. President, I move the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Present law provides that the Commissioner of Transportation can purchase condemned property, without the approval of a referee up to a value of \$3000, this extends that figure from \$3000 to \$15, 000. I urge the adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor say, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 275. File No. 222. Favorable report of the Joint Committee on Public Health and Safety. House bill no. 6909. An Act Permitting Persons over 18 years of age to Donate Blood without Parental Permission in Certain instances.

SENATOR PAC:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. This bill would permit any person over the age of 18 to contribute or donate blood. When we think of the vast reservoir of possible donations that the campuses represent, this bill becomes

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increasingly attractive. And what happens is that, most of these kids are away from school and are unable to get the parental consent. So at times, they do contribute blood. Now, the question arises that perhaps some legal problems, if there should be some infection or some consequence that affect the donation of blood. I think at this age, they are old enough to decide whether they can contribute.

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage of the bill. Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor say, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 277. File No. 218. Favorable report of the joint committee on the Environment. Substitute House Bill 7317. An Act Concerning Travel Trailers and Campers.

SENATOR PAC:

Mr. President, I move that we pass this retaining its place.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. There being no objection.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 278. File No. 219. Favorable report of the joint committee on Environment. Substitute for House Bill 7317. An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Certain Wild Animals and Wild Animal Products. As amended by H. A. A.

SENATOR PAC:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. First of all, there are some amendments and if you look on page 2 of your files, you'll find that the line 39, the

~~terms and conditions is deleted and inserted~~

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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this bill which has been passed in a substantial number of states, I'd be glad to give you the list of them at a later date, simply makes it clear that we are not a guarantor. If we're negligent in any way we're liable and we can see that we should be but we do not feel that we should be liable as a guarantor for something that in the present state of medical knowledge, there's nothing in the world we can do about it.

The third bill sponsored by the Hospital Association is 6384 (Rep. Griswold of the 109th.) AN ACT CONCERNING CONSENT FOR AUTOPSIES. Telephone consent for autopsies. Now when I get through here I'm going down to Judiciary and testify on exactly the same bill which is Senate Bill 137 which Sen. Rimer has introduced, so if you want to leave it out of here I'd be glad to deal with it in Judiciary. They are two bills almost word for word. This happens to be the one I drew and it got here. Sen. Rimer's is very similar and is in Judiciary.

6909 (Rep. DiMeo of the 98th.) AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTING PERSONS OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE TO DONATE BLOOD WITHOUT PARENTAL PERMISSION IN CERTAIN INSTANCES. Down in Judiciary this morning there is another bill on the question of letting persons eighteen years of age and older consent to any hospital procedure. If that bill passes, that will take care of the situation. If it does not pass, we think that certainly 6909 is a step in the right direction. I think people are doing it all the time. There's a blood donation drive at Yale and they go out and collect blood from students at Yale, UConn., or other places and nobody goes around and asks parental consent, but technically I think they're wrong and one of these days something is going to go wrong with one of these donations and we're going to have a law suit on the ground that you didn't get parental consent, and it seems to be a person of this age knows what blood donation is and should be entitled to give consent to it.

And the last bill as you might expect, which we are not in support, is the one you've just heard testimony on, 7273 introduced by Rep. Rose. This bill raises very serious problems as far as hospitals are concerned. I'd like to go back a little on the history of where this statute as it exists before the language changes suggested by 7273 came from. There was a case back in the fifties involving Backus Hospital in Norwich where a patient who had had a large hospital bill in the past came in, received \$1,200 worth of hospital treatment, and she said, "I don't want to be on welfare". Well, do you have any assets? None whatsoever.

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Mr. Flanagan: About H.P. 7159 which relates to the New Haven fire training school, this is the first school that was established in the state of Conn. and came under the assistance of state appropriations back in 1949. The area now where this school is located, which is at the junction of 91 and 95 in the city of New Haven, is now going to have to be replaced because the land down there has been sold, property owned by the city of New Haven. I do not notice any amount of money that they are requesting, and in fact I would hesitate I think to put a figure here because I think you would be somewhat skeptical about passing it on but I will give an estimate as to what they may be looking for would be \$500,000 to replace this school.

The New Haven school was one of the first of its type in the United States and other states have used the New Haven fire training school as a model as they have increased their fire training facilities. And this is part of the legislative package from the city of New Haven and introduced by the legislators from New Haven.

Sen. Pac: Any questions? Thank you. Anyone else wishing to speak on 6512? In that case from here on in we'll have speakers come up at random and speak on any bill that is before us. First of all I'll call on Mr. Judd.

Richard L. Judd, State Chairman of the Conn. Red Cross Blood Program: I am a volunteer and I'm speaking in favor of bill #6909 introduced by Rep. DiMeo.

The Conn. Red Cross Blood Program has been one of the most outstanding of its type in the country. We celebrated our twentieth anniversary last year and are continuing to serve the people of Conn. in a very important and necessary program. We collect over 108,000 units of blood per year which is distributed to patients in hospitals throughout the state as well as out of the state. We are asking that this committee favorably pass upon this bill which will allow individuals eighteen years of age and older to donate blood without parental permission or authorization. This is an important part of our program. Youth today in the state is committed to this program and I can speak to you officially as Dean of Student Affairs at Central Conn. State College where our own college supports this program very heavily. But a large majority of our students are under twenty one years of age and must have a signed slip before they are eligible to donate the blood. This causes them, as well as us, undue problems in getting this permission. And we feel that students of this age are capable

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of coming to a decision on this matter of their life as well as in many others. We know from practical experience that they want to, but because they have to get the slip they cannot always come in to give blood. I speak as a representative of the thirty-six chapters of the state asking you to endorse this particular proposal and I'm willing to answer any questions which you may have of me.

Rep. Rose: Has there been any medical advice concerning the dangers of this age group giving blood?

Mr. Judd: I will defer that question to our medical director, but basically the national program under which we are licensed to act through the National Institutes of Health provides anyone between the ages of eighteen and sixty I believe are eligible to give. But our medical director is here and he can answer that for you.

Rep. Rose: They're certainly eligible to give it for the protection of their country.

Mr. Judd: Yes they are.

Sen. Pac: Anyone else speaking on this bill?

Edward E. Morse, Director of the Division of Hematology in the

department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Conn. Health Center, and the Medical Director of the Red Cross Blood Program in Connecticut: I'd like to speak in favor of this H.B. 6909 which relates to the allowing individuals over the age of eighteen or over to donate blood of their own free will. The reason we feel this is particularly important is, as Mr. Judd said, the life of this program in Conn. depends upon its continual renewal through the approach to youth in this state. We know there are many individuals in the colleges who are ready to give blood just as they are ready to serve their country in other ways. And these individuals and their parents are very much in favor of this program. The necessity for obtaining a written permission to meet the present law often interferes with our collection of blood on the college campuses if, for instance, at the U. of Conn. there are six hundred young blood donors ready to give blood and some two hundred of them do not have a slip at hand. Which can occur because the slip was sent home but at the time the parents were signing all of the other permission slips it was not obvious that this was particularly important or the individual involved in deciding to donate the blood may decide at a time later that this really is an important part of his life and at that time, it's much more

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difficult being remote from home to get such permission. In this regard we feel that the present law is a deterrent and inhibiting factor in developing a youthful blood program and would like to have the law altered as it is written here. The average age of blood donors in the state at the present time is 46. And so we have a program made up of individuals who have been dedicated to it for a long time. We would like to open the doors wider to allow the youth of this state to begin participation early in their life to develop these good habits that will support our hospitals throughout their lives.

If I may ask permission to also speak to S.B. 885 at this time?

Rep. Rose: The matter of the responsibility under the law of parents giving permission to minors. Is this at all involved? Surely Red Cross doesn't want to get involved in law suits that might be drawn connected with a child not having been given permission from the parents. I presume this has been cleared.

Mr. Morse: We are supporting this bill specifically because we do want to maintain our approach in the most legal possible way, but recognize that requiring a permission from the parents from an individual who is capable of determining his own will in this situation is a deterrent. In these instances where the parents may approve the individual by dint of his coming to the bloodmobile indicates his willingness to give the unit of blood. But the legal requirement that there be a demonstration of parental permission is what is inhibitory at the present time. Now I'm not sure that answers your question.

Rep. Rose: No, but that's because I'm concerned about the danger and I'm sure it must have been cleared by the Red Cross that under the present law a minor must get permission for surgery in the hospital or certain other treatments and I just would hope that this would not be a matter - I'm sure somebody else could answer that

Mr. Morse: Yes, I'm sure Mr. Cornish, the manager of the Greater Hartford Chapter can speak to that question.

Sen. Pac: Any other question? Thank you.

Donald L. Cornish, Manager of the American National Red Cross for the state of Connecticut: I speak in favor of bill 6909 and add to what these two gentlemen have said by saying:

1. The American National Red Cross and its Chapters in Connecticut enthusiastically endorse this bill.
 2. Requirement for parental consent for donors between the ages of 18 and 21 is a deterrent to the involvement of the youth of Connecticut in this positive contribution to the health needs of the people of Connecticut.
 3. The parents are supportive of youth donors to the Red Cross Blood Program as evidenced by the fact that they gave consent to 7000 youth donors during the past year.
 4. There is precedent for this legislation which has been enacted in former years in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and Illinois, and so forth.
- Finally I would like to leave for the committee endorsements from twenty-seven communities in the state of Connecticut which we have received in writing.

Sen. Pae; Any questions? Thank you. Anyone else wishing to speak on this or any other bill before us today.

Dr. Philip Shelton, Hartford, wearing the right hat: I'm an ophthalmologist and Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Eye Section, and representing the Conn. State Medical Society on bill 6515 and 6586 AN ACT CONCERNING OPTOMETRISTS AS MEMBERS OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES ON VISION CARE and 6586 (Rep. Simons of the 139th.) AN ACT PROVIDING OPTOMETRIC SERVICES BY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS, both of which the medical society opposes.

Now we oppose bill 6515 which provides an expanded definition for those committees which optometrists are required to serve on. It expands the definition to boards and clinics and further expands it to regional health centers and any, of any political subdivision of the state. We are against this because optometrists are not physicians. They are not suited by education, training or experience to advise on health matters. They are trained and licensed only to measure the optical power of the human eye and to adapt glasses for the correction thereof. They will contribute their opinion on these statements, but they do not bring medical, they do not bring expertise in a scientific way to those items other than refraction and therefore they would contribute nothing to their position on these boards.

For example, there's a board proposed as medical examiners board for the Department of Transportation which I appeared against yesterday which includes an optometrist. Now optometry could just as well be on that board as podiatry because a man could have a foot drop and he could have his

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of what you did with them, you don't make a horse or a cow. The man is an optometrist and he would be more than under the state enabling act practicing his field. So that regardless of whether you cover the fees he couldn't invade your practice because by law he wouldn't be allowed to enter your field.

Dr. O'Rourke: I'm concerned with the way the public would interpret this.

Sen. Gunther: We're talking public interpretation and we're talking about law. We license these various fields and we set them up so we have very definite, in fact Conn. is very severe in their limiting of the various professions and para-medical and that type of thing, so that we aren't talking about allowing them greater latitude. You're talking about public image.

Dr. O'Rourke: Correct.

Sen. Gunther: And you feel this -

Dr. O'Rourke: The law separates them and the coverage of fees includes them. And I feel this would confuse the public.

Sen. Pac: Any other questions? Thank you. Anyone else wishing to be heard on any of the bills?

Dr. John Thayer, representing the State Medical Society: I would like to talk to bill 6909 which is an act concerning permitting persons eighteen years of age to donate blood without parental permission in certain instances.

I do not wish to talk the bill to death and this statement and the statement on the S.B. 885 An act concerning blood and tissue as a medical service which has been referred to previously this morning, I believe both of these statements have been given to your secretary, and I would like to just reinforce the fact that they have been here and that they are before your committee.

Sen. Pac: Any questions?

Sen. Lyons: Mr. Chairman, will the doctor indicate whether he is opposed or in favor ?

Dr. Thayer: I am in favor of passage of both bills.

Sen. Pac: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to speak on any bill? If not the hearing is ended.