

Act Number	Session	Bill Number	Total Number of Committee Pages	Total Number of House Pages	Total Number of Senate Pages
PA 71-119		5590	4	1	2
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transportation</i> 83 • <i>Transportation</i> 68-70 				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1220(<i>consent</i>) 	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1154-1155

H-110

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

**VOL. 14
PART 3
974-1450**

H.B. No. 5590, An Act Concerning the Regulation of Bicycles and Tricycles, File No. 193; Calendar No. 247, Substitute for S.B. No. 0668, An Act Concerning Municipal Acquisition of Environmentally Desirable Easements, File No. 123.

THE SPEAKER:

You've heard the motion of the gentleman from the 95th. Is there objection to adoption of any of these items on the Consent Calendar? If not, the question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the bills. All those in favor indicate by saying aye. Those opposed? The bills are PASSED.

MR. SARASIN (95th):

Mr. Speaker, I move the following bills be placed on the Consent Calendar pursuant to Rule 48. On page 3, bottom of the page, Calendar No. 252, H.B. No. 6478, An Act Concerning Water Resources Commission Powers Over Radioactive and Thermal Discharges; on page 4, top of the page, Calendar No. 0253, H.B. No. 7629, An Act Concerning Cruelty to Animals, File No. 199; Calendar No. 254, H.B. No. 7645, An Act Validating the Notice of Ruel S. Smith to the Town of Stonington, File No. 200; second from the bottom on page 4, Calendar No. 258, H.B. No. 6592, An Act Concerning the Compensation of Legislative Employees, File No. 202; on the top of page 5, Calendar No. 261, substitute for S.B. No. 0344, An Act Concerning Licensing of Pet Shops, File No. 144, second from the bottom on page 5, Calendar No. 267, S.B. No. 0435, An Act Concerning Retirement of State's Attorneys, File No. 146.

THE SPEAKER:

You've heard the motion of the gentleman from the 95th. Is there any individual objection to the placement of any of these bills on the Consent Calendar? Hearing no individual objection, it is so ordered.

MR. O'NEILL (52nd):

**S-78
CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

SENATE

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

**VOL. 14
PART 3
957-1456**

April 21, 1971

Page 27

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage. 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. 229. File No. 253. Favorable report of the joint committee on the Senate Bill 639. Substitute for Senate Bill 639. An Act Concerning Tidal Wetlands.

SENATOR PAC:

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

This bill would give the Commissioner of Natural Resources a little more flexibility. During the process of mapping these wetlands, if he feels there is an immediate danger of their being spoiled, he can declare it a wetlands area. But, he must complete the mapping within sixty days. If he hasn't done this by sixty days, the area reverts to its previous status.

I think it is a good bill. It will stop some of this spoilation.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 233. File No. 254. Favorable report of the joint committee on the House Bill 5590. An Act Concerning the Regulation of Bicycles and Tricycles.

SENATOR PAC:

April 21, 1971

Page 28

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

This bill makes two changes in the law which has a great significance it permits communities to develop an ordinance which would allow young people to ride bicycles on sidewalks.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 255. File No. 298. Favorable report of the joint committee on Insurance and Real Estate. Substitute Senate Bill 250. An Act Concerning Arbitration of Disputes Concerning the Value of Real Property.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Mr. President, I move the acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. This act permits two or more people who are unable to agree in the dissolution of a partnership, when they are unable to agree on the value of real estate, to submit the matter to the State Real Estate Commission for arbitration. The decision of the Commission is binding on the parties dispute. However, an appeal may be made in Superior Court within 30 days in certain instances. The Arbitrator will be paid 60 dollars a day cost to split equally by the parties in the dispute. It will solve many problems in certain sticky situations. I urge its adoption.

SENATOR ROME:

Mr. President, through you, a question. It said, in cases otherwise provided for by law, you refer to partnership dissolution, and more other

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

TRANSPORTATION

**PART 1
1-337**

**1971
Index**

TRANSPORTATION

FEBRUARY 24, 1971

Sen. Rimer: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I'm Senator Rimer from the 26th District. I want to speak very briefly on Senate Bill 170 AN ACT EXEMPTING MOTOR VEHICLES BEARING LEGISLATIVE NUMBER PLATES FROM THE PAYMENT OF TOLLS. I will now read the Statement of Purpose, "To spare legislators as public officials the expense of paying tolls in their constant use of public highways to reach the State Capitol and to fulfill other demands for state-wide travel because of their public office." I just want to briefly call your attention to the fact that state automobiles, official vehicles, are now exempt from the payment of tolls on our State highways. It's my belief that we are in the true sense employees of the State. I think that we have a minimum of fringe benefits and I think that this is one that we are entitled to, and I respectfully request your consideration of this bill.

Chairman O'Dea: Any questions? Thank you Senator.

Rep. Fox: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I am Representative Fox of the 152nd District. I come to speak for an on behalf of annual motor vehicle inspections. My bill, No. 5134 AN ACT CONCERNING ANNUAL INSPECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, or one of the many other bills, Rep. Morano's bill, this is not important. What is important is that there be periodic inspections. In the past two years I have gotten increasing numbers of calls from people, mostly elderly, complaining bitterly about the lack of direction signs on automobiles, indicators not working, tail lights not working, things of this kind which create a tremendous hazard, not only for the elderly, but for everybody. In addition there is an increasing number of unsafe cars on the highways being driven by increasingly unsafe drivers. Third, and the most important thing that has recently developed, I am getting a tremendous number of calls and requests in respect to the noise pollution on our highways from the lack of conformance to muffling statutes that now exist by trucks, by sports cars and by motorcycles. By periodic inspections, while not curing these things permanently, will go a long way towards it. Mr. Morano has covered the rest of the matter adequately. Thank you very much. I hope you will bring out a bill this year.

Chairman O'Dea: Thank you Representative.

Rep. Truex: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I am Representative Ruth Truex from the 23rd District representing Wethersfield. I speak here this morning in support of HB No. 5590, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES, submitted by Rep. Kablick of the 22nd District and myself. The Statement of Purpose is a very simple one, and it's a very simple bill, but I'm sure that there will be considerable controversy about it. To render lawful the riding of bicycles on sidewalks. The bill has been introduced at the request of the Town Council of Wethersfield through

TRANSPORTATION

FEBRUARY 24, 1971

Rep. Truex (Continued): the Town Manager, very much concerned with the safety of children in present day traffic conditions. Mr. Bauer, the Town Manager of Wethersfield is here and he will be, I'm sure, full of information for you of a technical nature as regard to this bill. You heard Mr. Morano speak earlier about the carnage on the highways and I think I don't have to reiterate this, that the statute when it was put on the books was probably one for the times when the roads were safe enough for the youngsters to ride their bicycles and tricycles that would be a menace to people on sidewalks. But in this day and age, with increased traffic and the hazards involved, and the speed at which cars go, I think there is no question that bicycles whizzing by on sidewalks, as they might, although the speed is controlled by statute as you know, would be far less of a hazard to the pedestrians than to cars whizzing by on a roadway where there might be bicycle riders. This came to my attention some years ago when one of our sons and a group of boys, they were probably about 16, perfectly capable of taking care of themselves, riding bicycles on a highway down to the shore for a day's outing, and a State Trooper came by and was so concerned with their safety on a highway that he indicated they should use a new section of the road which was not open to the public transportation yet and gave them permission to ride. Of course this was a lark to them. But I think it does indicate the problems of bicycle riding in this day and age of increased traffic and increased speed. I know that this would be a problem for probably many large cities, but I think there is a possibility, a very little one, that certain bicycle lanes could be marked off on sidewalks. There are ways that towns could establish their own ordinances within the State statute which could control some of the problems locally. I would urge you to give this thoughtful consideration from the point of view of the safety of our young people in facing modern day traffic hazards. Thank you very much.

Chairman O'Dea: Thank you Representative.

Rep. Kablik: Good morning. Representative Kablik of the 22nd District, also from Wethersfield. Mr. Bauer, our Town Manager, I believe as Ruth indicated is in the back of the room and will subsequently give you the background as to Wethersfield and how this came to our attention. What I'd like to leave with you ladies and gentlemen this morning, are two or three facts. One, that despite the fact that this bill is particularly, as compared to some others, perhaps not the most earth-shaking bill to be considered, nevertheless, it did merit the consideration and support of the HARTFORD COURANT. It had a fairly reasonable presentation supporting this particular change and rather than drone on, I'd like to leave it for your consideration. It will speak more eloquently than perhaps I could.

TRANSPORTATION

FEBRUARY 24, 1971

Rep. Kablik (Continued): The second factor is that it's obviously a policy question, should you have the bicycles on the sidewalks or on the streets. Thinking what was the reason for the rule, I checked with the statute and found that this particular statute with the omission of bicycles from sidewalks dates back to a legislative session exactly 50 years ago, 1921. I submit that if you've seen some of the historical photos of bicycles in those days, they were formidable things that didn't belong on sidewalks. They had high wheels and obviously were not the safety bicycle as we know it today. I suggest that perhaps the reason for the rule which was valid 50 years ago needs to be re-examined in light of modern circumstances, and that perhaps a shift in policy might be appropriate as suggested by the editorial and the sponsors of the bill. Thank you.

Chairman O'Dea: Thank you Representative.

Rep. Papandrea: Good morning Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I am John F. Papandrea. I'm here as the Deputy Majority Leader on behalf of the Democratic House leadership, in support of HB 984 (Rep. Ratchford of the 167th, Rep. Kennelly of the 1st, Rep. Ajello of the 118th, Sen. Alfano of the 7th, Sen. Caldwell of the 23rd, Rep. Papandrea of the 78th, Rep. Mahoney of the 19th, Rep. Prete of the 114th, Rep. O'Neill of the 52nd, Rep. Hannon of the 16th, Rep. Morris of the 11th, Rep. Newman of the 146th) AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR THE SERVICE AND REPAID OF VEHICLES AND AUTHORIZE ENFORCEMENT OF SAME BY THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT. Let me allay the fears of many. The title of the bill is somewhat in error. There is no intention on the part of the Democratic House leadership to urge upon you licensing of repairmen. Our concern is basically in another area entirely. So we suggest to you that you ignore completely that portion of the title of the Statement of Purpose which deals with the area of licensing. We are here, however, concerned with a problem which presents approximately 2,000 complaints annually to the Motor Vehicle Department here in Connecticut. That is giving some teeth of enforcement and some power of affirmative relief to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Now let me preface my comments by saying that certainly it is understood and I think most of us agree that the vast majority of dealers and repairmen in the State of Connecticut are honest, they are legitimate, they are men of integrity who do provide good, prompt and reasonable service to the motorists of Connecticut. However, for too long, not only in Connecticut but in most of our states, the consumer, the motorist has been the helpless victim of a few unscrupulous repairmen. In addition, consumers have been subjected to abuse and low quality workmanship, in many instances under new car warranties which are little understood.

The Democratic Party in it's continuing endeavor to do what possibly can be done to protect consumers from unfair practices enthusiastically endorses and recommends legislation which will provide prompt, effective

TRANSPORTATION

FEBRUARY 24, 1971

Chairman O'Dea: Anyone else to speak on any of these bills? If not the hearing is closed on these bills. We will now go to HB 5590 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES. Representative Truex and Representative Kablik have already spoken. Is there anyone else in favor of this bill?

Mr. David Bauer: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. My name is David Bauer. I'm the Town Manager in Wethersfield and the Traffic Authority for the Town. This bill attempts to correct what appears to be a glaring paradox in our safety program. On the one hand we say to children you must ride your bicycles in such a way as to be safe, which means in most communities that you ride them on the sidewalk. On the other hand, we're faced with the situation that we want them to respect the law, and the law in this case says that bicycles shall be ridden in the street. The complete anachronism I guess is the result in the changes in relative uses of bicycles and vehicles. It's a small thing, but it is nevertheless an irritation and if the Committee could see fit to report this bill out favorably, I think it would make us all more comfortable in our safety program.

Chairman O'Dea: Any question? Thank you Mr. Bauer. Anyone else in favor of this bill? Anyone opposed to the bill? The hearing is closed on HB 5590 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES.

We'll now hear SB 77 AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES FOR THE NEWS MEDIA. Anyone in favor of this bill? Anyone opposed to the bill?

Mr. Alan Schoenhaus: Good morning. Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Alan Schoenhaus and I'm speaking as President of the Laurel Club, speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Laurel Club and registering our opposition to this bill. All I can tell you is the consensus among the members of the Committee was that this is an unnecessary bill, to say the least. Certainly we are as a group opposed to it. It's a minor measure. I know you have many things to do. We would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, if we may submit sometime today or tomorrow a written statement to the Committee outlining our complete opposition. Thank you very much.

Chairman O'Dea: Thank you Alan. Anyone else opposed to the bill?

Mr. Ed Carroll: Good morning. Ed Carroll representing the Department of Motor Vehicles. We feel that there should be at least a \$15.00 charge for this plate if there is favorable action on the bill. Thank you.

Chairman O'Dea: Anyone else opposed to the bill? If not the hearing is closed on SB 77 AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES FOR THE NEWS MEDIA. We will now hear SB 147 AN ACT CONCERNING