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<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Corrections, Welfare &amp; Humane Institutions</i> 26</li> </ul>				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1893-1896</li> </ul>	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1180-1181</li> </ul>

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
1971**

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PART 4  
1451-1967**

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MARILYN PEARSON:

EFH

Mr. Speaker, in an overall State program for fighting drug abuse, I think that this is a very most important phase that we are actually finally correcting by State law, which should have been done a long time ago. There have been cases in Fairfield County where our Fairfield County Undercover Squad has had to use the facilities of the New York State Federal Lab to get reports, as the Toxological Lab in Hartford was overburdened. Now our Hartford laboratory has done a wonderful job, but they could and cannot complete analysis of any suspected narcotics to keep up with the demands that have been placed upon them. Everyone really is allowed a speedy trial, and because of this many cases have been dismissed, because the analysis has not been completed on time for this particular purpose. By allowing these certified reports of analysis by the State Toxological Laboratory to be used as competent evidence, as worded in the Bill, I think this will relieve our lab from having to send their personnel to the Courts. It's an excellent Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended. If not, the question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bill as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A" in concurrence. All those in favor will indicate by saying "aye". All those opposed. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 552, S.B. No. 609, an Act concerning

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outstandingly meritorious performance award to inmates of correctional institutions. EFH

OTHA N. BROWN, JR.:

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.

OTHA N. BROWN, JR.:

Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill hopes to improve the present system dealing with meritorious performance award to inmates in prisons. Under the present system because of the traditional use of this word, it has become a kind of misnomer, and the reason for this is because of the manner in which meritorious good time is...has been awarded in Connecticut. As a matter of fact, it has become a kind of punishment, rather than a reward. It works this way. The present practice involves awarding of meritorious good time based on the sentence and computed when the man enters the institution. Therefore, should the inmate misbehave, or fail to perform work satisfactorily, then the meritorious time is deducted. In effect, then, the practice is essentially one of a punishment system rather than a reward system. This piece of legislation in the passage of S.B. No. 609, we would now attempt to make a start at turning the Corrections Department to use this reward as a motivating device. Therefore, the rewards would be limited only to 5% of the average population of the previous year, so that this could not be considered any kind of a give-away

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program, and at the same time it will be a true incentive for desired personal growth of inmates. It's a good Bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge its adoption.

EFH

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the Bill.

PETER W. GILLIES:

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Bill, and I hope that it will move in the direction that we trust that it will. The only reservation I have with the Bill is simply that it does limit the number of persons in the inmate population who can benefit from it...that is 5% of the total population. I would like to see it with no limitation at all. It seems to me if our correctional institutions are doing what we want them to do, then hopefully we would be turning out a very large percentage of the total population through this meritorious program. I think the incentive, if it's good for 5%, is certainly good for 10 or 15 or 20. But I think we're moving in the right direction. I think we've done some fine things in the past in the area of correctional institutions, and this is another Bill moving in a farsighted good direction, and I urge its passage.

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further.

JOHN G. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, I'm unfamiliar with all the details of the way in which this would be handled, but I'm wondering is...when the people are in jail, are they...does this 5% apply to both male

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and female, or to a total population of the jail, or are they separated so that it wouldn't matter? It's a question of information, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does anyone care to respond to the inquiry of the gentleman?

JOHN D. PRETE:

Mr. Speaker, the 5% would be a percentage of any institution, and since the sexes are separated in the institutions, this would be the defect that the gentleman is looking for. I'd also like to comment on the fact that the Commissioner is restricted to 5%. It's very possible that a very permissive Commissioner can wind up in control of the Department, in which case, he could award this outstanding meritorious time to a very large number of persons, and I'm not so sure that this would be the best thing to do.

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the Bill. If not, the question's on acceptance and passage. All those in favor will indicate by saying "aye". All those opposed. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 554, Substitute for S.B. No. 639, an Act concerning tidal wetlands. (As amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A").

FRANCIS W. CIAMPI:

Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance of the Joint

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**SENATE**

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CLERK:

CAL. NO. 271. File No. 213. Favorable report of the joint committee on Public Health and Military affairs. Substitute for House Bill 4728. An Act Concerning Payments for Retirement Options. As amended by H. A. S. A

SENATOR BURKE:

Mr. President, I move the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. The State Employees now may pay their retirement benefits in 12 monthly installments. This bill would allow them to extend it over 36 months. I move passage of the bill.

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. 282. File No. 371. Favorable report of the joint committee on Correction, Welfare and Humane Institutions. Senate Bill 609. An Act Concerning Outstandingly Meritorious Performance Award to Inmates of Correctional Institutions.

SENATOR CIARLONE:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. The Awarding of meritorious is now based on the sentence and computed when the man enters the institution. Should the inmate misbehave or fails to perform satisfactorily, the time is then deducted. In effect, this works to a detriment of the inmate. Passage of Senate Bill 609. is an attempt to start to turn this illot and make this a motivating device. Such award will be limited to 5% of the average population for the previous year, so that the meritorious award time would not

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be a give away program but will truly be an investment in the future of personal growth. It's a good bill and your addition,

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 212. File no. 240. Favorable report of the joint committee on General Law. Senate Bill 1042, An Act Validating a Notice Of Joanne Schmeltz to the City of .... The Clerk has an ...

... a ...

Strike out everything after the enacting clause and insert the following: "This act shall take effect on May 1, 1970, and repeal on May 4, 1970, by the City of ... injuries sustained by Joanne Schmeltz on March 31, 1970, is validated and declared sufficient to permit said Joanne Schmeltz to ... prosecute to fine ... The City of ... only as the same was not given within the time required by law. Said notice shall have the same force and effect as though the provisions of section 19 of the ... the time within which notice is required to be given ... and said City shall be barred from setting up the failure to comply with the provisions of ... the time within which notice is required to be given as a defense to said action and ... of said injuries had been given to said City within the time so required.

SENATOR ...

Mr. ... the maendment contains the same language actually, as the bill ...

**JOINT  
STANDING  
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HEARINGS**

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WELFARE  
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will be moved because we don't want to keep him locked up in isolation because we're afraid of a kill job -- for the most part, the man will have to give his consent.

CHAIRMAN CIARLONE: Do you suggest that we change the working of the bill, then -- that question was raised, where it should be upon the consent of the prisoner.

DR. ALBERT: I spoke to the commissioner about that very issue this morning and he said he ought to give this some more thought and would speak to the committee in executive session.

-----: What are some other states that have adopted this compact?

DR. ALBERT: I don't know, there are some other states that have adopted this compact but I just don't know who they are. I would like to speak on bill 609 to give the commissioner authority to award meritorious performance awards such as good-time days. We feel that the best rehabilitative kind of programs are based on a positive reward system. The kind of "good-time" which is already on the books has become something that is taken away from people, it is already granted to them when they get sentenced, so it has really become kind of a negative thing. In other words, if you act up, then something is taken away. We would like the authority to award a small group of inmates for their extra good work, their extra good performance towards the school training programs, etc. I think this would help turn the corner and reverse the trend from the negative system and make it a positive thing. Reward people for the positive things that they do rather than take something away from them if they act up. This would also help us with our employees who would expect to keep closer scrutiny on a man in terms of reports that we would use in order to make these awards. I think it will help them change their orientation from a system of taking things away to one helping men see they will be rewarded for good behaviour the same way we do it for people on the outside. Bill 613, further research indicates to us that this bill is no longer needed. The people who would be protected in this bill are already protected under existing state law.

SENATOR CRAFTS: Do you know of any numbers which cover this existing law?

DR. ALBERT: I have it written down but I haven't brought it with me. Would you like me to submit that information to the committee?

SENATOR CRAFTS: That won't be necessary, we have our own research.

DR. ALBERT: The other bill I wanted to speak on was 612 which is the bill on incentive pay for education for correctional employees and was earlier spoken on negatively. I was not prepared to speak on this bill and was surprised to hear some employee speak against