

Act Number	Session	Bill Number	Total Number of Committee Pages	Total Number of House Pages	Total Number of Senate Pages
PA 71-262		7269	8	2	2
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 222-224 • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 231 • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 242 • <i>Public Health & Safety</i> 890-891 				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2147- 2148 	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1718- 1719

H-112

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

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PART 5
1968-2502**

Wednesday, May 5, 1971

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saying "Aye". Opposed. The amendment is adopted. It is marked technical. Question is on acceptance and passage as amended. The gentleman from the 130th.

REPRESENTATIVE SULLIVAN:

This bill merely clarifies a situation that arises at so-called T intersections and it provides that the automobile approaching the T on the through street has the right of way. People tend to do this now and we hope that this will improve traffic safety in our state. I urge the passage of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

CLERK:

Calendar 636, Substitute for House Bill 7269 - An Act Concerning the Agencies Constituting the Department of Mental Health, File 584.

MR. SPEAKER:

Representative Yacavone.

REPRESENTATIVE YACAVONE:

I urge acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable

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report and passage of the bill. Will you remark.

REPRESENTATIVE YACAVONE:

This bill will place the (inaudible), the Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center, the Greater Hartford Mental Health Center and the Albany Avenue Child Guidance Center under the Department of Mental Health included with all the other facilities of the department as one agency under the Commissioner of Mental Health. I urge passage of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the bill. If not, the question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. All those in favor will indicate by saying "Aye". Opposed. The bill is passed.

CLERK:

Calendar 638, Substitute for House Bill 6699 - An Act to Ban High Phosphate Detergents.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 89th.

REPRESENTATIVE CIAMPI:

The Clerk has an amendment.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is on acceptance and passage, the Clerk has an amendment. Will the Clerk read the amendment.

CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule A, offered by Mr. Ciampi of the 89th.

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SENATE

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this has hurt the whole milk industry. I believe its a good step in a good direction and would help some marginal people.

THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Cal. 603, File 584 Favorable report of the Committee on Public Health and Safety on Substitute H.B. 7269 An Act Concerning the Agnecies Constituting the Department of Mental Health.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Pac.

SENATOR PAC:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? This bill is simply a housekeeping bill. It would by name make the Due Boy Day Treatment Center, The Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center, the Greater Hartford Mental Health Center and the Albany Avenue Child Guidance Center a part of the Department of Mental Health. For all intents and purposes they have been actual members of the Department of Mental Health. All this will do in actuality put it into name and put it into our Statutes. They have been funded under a Statute Chapter 50, The appropriations previously so there is no real

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change insofar as funding is concerned.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark further? If not all those in favor of passage signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Page 17 of your Calendar. Top of the page 249, File 597 Favorable report of the Committee on Liquor Control on Substitute H.B. 8614 An Act Concerning Closing Hours for Premises Serving Alcoholic Liquors. The Clerk has an Amendment.

THE CLERK:

Senator Dupont.

SENATOR DUPONT:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Committee's Favorable report and passage of the bill. Will the Clerk please read the Amendment.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amend. A. as offered by Senator Dupont.

In line 12 delete the bracket. In line 13, delete the bracket, in line 14 after the word Saturday insert the following words, 2 o'clock a.m. and 9 o'clock a.m. In line 42 delete the bracket and line 43 delete the bracket. In line 61 delete the bracket. In line 62 delete the bracket. In line 62 after the word Saturday insert the following word. Two o'clock a.m. and 9 o'clock a.m.

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THURSDAY

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in question were most eloquent and I think surpassing what I could add. I would simply say this, that from our standpoint, I don't think that we should report out a bill without an intention of funding it. I would with respect to this bill say though that were we to look at the overall picture, and I think a more careful analysis in executive committee would be necessary, but if we were to look at the overall picture, that this would very likely and honestly be categorized as a money saving bill rather than an expensive bill. I think it's a bill that is applicable to the state of Connecticut of course as a whole and I think there are many localities that, had we had the foresight or the time that we could have received co-sponsorship from. The reason sponsorship is limited to Manchester is I think because of the dedication of many of the parents involved in what we call the Manchester Sheltered Workshop, and also those of us who now serve here have served the town of Manchester for some time in one capacity or another and have become very familiar with this program. And it's one of those things that we're extremely proud of. One has to visit a facility I think of this type and see what's happening, and not only the children that benefit so much as indicated by the previous speaker so well, but also their loved ones and their parents. And the dedication that the parents have to this program is just overwhelming and I think it's in direct proportion to the benefit that the program is to their retarded children. And I would certainly appreciate full consideration by the committee. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer. Thank you.

Sen. Crafts: I'd like to ask Senator Odegard to remark about the approximate sum of money that we're talking about.

Sen. Odegard: I can I think, within reasonably a period of time, respond to that but right now it's entirely too loose and I've had some figures that have been developed in one way or another, are just tremendous variety and I don't feel I can give that to you now.

Rep. Cohen: Thank you very much. Dr. Robert Cramer.

Dr. Robert Kramer, Associate Professor Pediatrics, University of Conn. School of Medicine and Chairman of the Advisory Council to the Associate Commissioner of Childrens and Adolescents Services of the Department of Mental Health: I'm coming to speak specifically of bill 7269 and will address myself primarily to the issue of the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center which is described in this.

The purpose of this bill, although not stated in this document is to establish this diagnostic and treatment center

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as a separate unit at Connecticut Valley and this is what I would like to support. The concept of separate facilities for the care of children in hospitals whether it be for psychiatric care or medical care is an established one. Within the health professions the separation of adult medicine from children's medicine is an established procedure. We have had the exceptional opportunity in the past year with the development of our children's unit at Connecticut Valley to conduct some of the experiments in separate administration. We haven't had the full separation of the facility because it still is of course part of the total psychiatric unit there. There is no doubt in my mind from a professional point of view that this separation will result in better care and better programs for the children who are mentally disturbed in this state.

Rep. Clarke: We have the DuBois Center in Stamford. I've had a great many calls about it. People speak very well of it.

Dr. Kramer: Yes, Dubois is listed in this and I didn't address myself to that but the same comments apply to that too, absolutely. And I hope may be other centers and regional areas eventually. We've dealt with it directly in my own work and it is good.

Rep. Cohen: Any other questions of the speaker? Thank you very much. Dr. Robert - Richard Granger. Can't read doctor's writing too well.

Richard Granger, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Yale Child Study Center: I'm a graduate of Cornell University Medical College in 1948 and I've been a pediatrician in Connecticut for twenty three years. I was in private practice for fifteen years and during that time I was pediatrician to the Children's Center in Hamden, pediatric consultant to the North Haven school system, pediatric consultant to the Clifford Beers Child Guidance Clinic and president of the New Haven area Mental Health Association. At the present time, in addition to my work at the Child Study Center I'm chairman of the Mental Health Committee of the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I've obviously long been aware of and concerned for the mentally health needs of children and I introduced all that just to let you know this isn't just a today's appearance for me. I'd like to ask your support of bills 7269, 6380 and 6510.

It has become increasingly obvious to those of us who work for better services and facilities for children that in order to achieve our goal we must separate such services from those designed for, and operated in behalf of, adults. The loudly

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voiced and overwhelming needs of adults always override the needs of children if the two are not separated. And the kids get short shrift. No example shows this better than the dramatic improvement in conditions and treatment at the Children's Unit of the Connecticut Valley Hospital in the past year and a half or so.

Until approximately a year ago the unit was merely another section of the Connecticut Valley Hospital, and those of us in Connecticut who knew about it were ashamed of it. It was a veritable snake pit. There were, at times, almost a hundred children crammed into space designed for not more than seventy. There was little or no intake screening. There were no long range treatment plans and little or no coordination with other children's services in Connecticut. Then co-directors were appointed to be responsible for the children's unit alone, and they have accomplished literally wonders in working toward a modern Diagnostic and Treatment Unit.

I am here today to ask you to help the children of our state further by acting favorably on H.B. 7269 which will grant statutory autonomy, within the Department of Mental Health, to the new Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Middletown. This action will give overdue recognition to the needs of emotionally disturbed children and to the progress which has already been made in meeting them. In addition, favorable action on H.B. 6341, a bill which was heard yesterday by the Committee on Correction, Welfare and Humane Institutions, will authorize the appointment of directors for the unit. Not to take favorable action on these two bills would, in my opinion, be regressive action. Passing them both can help us continue to work full speed for children's services of which the State of Connecticut can at last be proud.

H.B. 6380: The new Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center cannot fill all the mental health needs of the children of Connecticut. It is not appropriate for all children to be hospitalized. Many children will profit much more from being able to be placed in group homes specially designed, staffed and supported to be part of a network of treatment facilities for emotionally disturbed children. Such a therapeutic milieu has a different treatment function from that of acute, short term hospital facilities or even long-term residential treatment centers. Indeed, much of the progress we make with the children in these other facilities is often lost because we do not have the type of group homes and halfway houses which could help us finish the job we have begun.

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Rep. Cohen: Charles O. Laurie? Is it Dr. Laurie? We don't want to leave out your title if you have one.

Charles A. Lauri, Associate Commissioner, Division of Children and Adolescent Services, Department of Mental Health: I come before you this morning in order to support H.B. 6380, 6510, 7269.

H.B. 6380: By expanding this act, the Department of Mental Health would be able to fund additional community programs, so that certain children, at certain points in their recovery process could and would be programmed in their own communities. This act would also enable the Department to begin to develop a much needed continuum of services for children in need.

H.B. 6510: This act would enable the Department of Mental Health to jointly program with other state department for those children that seem at the present time to "fall between the cracks", and as a result have been shifted from one department to another department. This act would provide the means for more than one department to provide and apply jointly their expertise to an extremely difficult clinical problem.

H.B. 7269: Due to an earlier oversight, I would like to suggest that this act be amended to include the State operated Albany Avenue Child Guidance Center as another agency constituting the Department of Mental Health. This act will enable, as will H.B. 6341 heard yesterday in the Committee of Corrections, Welfare, and Humane Institutions, the Department of Mental Health to administratively separate the already existing Children's Service at Connecticut Valley Hospital from the adult oriented Connecticut Valley Hospital. The result of this bill would be to provide a child oriented agency, specifically geared to children needs that would be able to deliver the most desirable program to those children entrusted to its care.

Rep. Cohen: Any questions of our speaker? Thank you very much.
Janice MacFearn of Wethersfield?

Janice MacFearn of Wethersfield: If I may I would like to defer to Mrs. Beatrice Hart who is following me on the list. She has a statement from both of us. Thank you.

Beatrice Hart: Mrs. MacFearn and I are representing a newly founded group of women called Women to Save Children. Today's Courant had an editorial that mentions our objectives. Our sole purpose is to enlarge in this organization among women throughout the state of Connecticut with the objective of supporting strenuously legislation which will at long last begin to decisively improve the situation of many helpless children seemingly doomed from the day of their birth. Now I didn't come in here prepared to say anything

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As to H.B. 6776, the act creating additional residential and outpatient clinics. I think it's pretty obvious that we need more but it's difficult to talk to a statement of purpose because so much of the intent and so much of the final result of a bill is in the actual wording, the actual drafting of a bill. You could be for motherhood and ultimately not end up with not supporting it too.

The Association two years ago supported the then counterpart of present H.B. 6908. This is an appointment of an advisory council to the Board of Mental Health. Right now Connecticut is working in a sort of gray area. This council is required by federal regulation. And it could, the lack of it being authorized by statute could affect the inflow of federal funds to the state. Now I'm not saying it will because I don't know, but if we get some eager beaver bureaucrat in Washington that hews to the absolute letter of the law, we could be in trouble. It does not involve money other than traveling expenses for the unpaid advisory council. I don't really think we have any choice but to go along if we're going to continue to be part of the federal framework which I assume we're going to be, but to go along and go play the game by their rules.

Commissioner Launi and others have spoken to H.B. 7269 which expands the number of agencies that constitute the Department of Mental Health. There is another bill, H.B. 7019 which is on the same subject matter and there is only one significant difference. A difference though that I think we ought to do at this time. 7019 also includes the Division of Children and Adolescent Services which has been set up within the department with Charlie Launi as Associate Commissioner. It gives them statutory identification. And I think it's a long time coming that we identify and emphasize the fact that we do supply and we're committed to supply programs for children. This does in no way affect any of the operations, and it certainly doesn't cost any money since it's only one, two, three, four, five six seven words on a sheet of paper. But I do think the emphasis as such is important.

I'd like to say just a couple of things about our study, in rebuttal to the Commissioner, and I think Mrs. Wilson has touched on most of them. I think that maybe it needs to be re-emphasized that what we're talking is a type of delivery service, that is proven out, has been used in other states, and used successfully. It has one big basic advantage as I see it. It emphasizes the delivery of services in the community governed by the community needs and starts us away from pouring all our funds into the maintenance of the state hospitals system. We are - we talk like a real good fight

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THURSDAY

APRIL 22, 1971

Mrs. Hart: I'm Beatrice Hart of Wethersfield. Senator Pac, Doctor Cohen, and members of the Committee. As the Secretary of Connecticut Women for Children, I am going to lay special emphasis on H.B. 6341 which is before you today. Conn. has previous few facilities of high quality for disturbed children. The children's unit at Connecticut Valley Hospital could be such a facility if the legislature would release the required funds to establish this unit as a separate unit distinct from the adult division of the hospital. The children's services must be separated from adult oriented services. This distinction creates the proper atmosphere for the distinct and separate type of services required by the disturbed child. A distinct and separate facility would offer better programming. The unit of this orientation of a child-centered facility would attract the highly qualified staff who would prefer to work in this appropriate atmosphere. We also note from a memo dated Marched 25th and submitted to the Governor shortly after that, I didn't write it down but the memo was submitted by Dr. Marsh, Director of the Psychiatric Clinic in Hartford, and submitted to the Governor shortly after that, the Department of Mental Health has a nearly completed treatment unit for children At Connecticut Valley Hospital that they do not have funds to staff and open. Therefore, the House Bills 7269 and 7019 and the bill appropriating funds for the sufficient operation of this children's unit are of paramount importance while the who and how of the directors appointment, while technically important of itself, makes little sense until this children's unit is properly grounded as a separate and distinct child-oriented facility that is, at the same time, properly and sufficiently funded.

As a forum and as a force for the rights of children in this state, we would like this committee to know that at any time when the population of this country is 50% under 25 years of age and as wellas for all moral and humane considerations, the time is at hand when the primacy of the rights of children will be requested for consideration by all state authorities.

As far as Connecticut Women for Children is concerned, in the short month and one half of our operations, we represent by negotiation and by affiliation close to 15,000 women, and that is only the beginning. We would like to ask thfs committee to make every effort to see that this program for a children's unit at Connecticut Valley Hospital is funded as a separate and distinct division from the adult oriented services. If this committee has any suggestions as to how we may assist them in the proper execution of this greatly needed new facility, we would appreciate their assistance.

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Sen. Pac: What were the numbers of the bills you mentioned? Funding -

Mrs. Hart: I don't have the number of the funding of the bill. All I know is, the very first hearing I ever appeared at, was 7269 and 7019 which asked that this be created a distinct and separate unit for the reasons stated.

For the rest of our time we would like to talk about drugs, and the people who use them, specifically referring in turn to certain of the bills before this committee. It might interest this committee to know that in mid 1966 -

Rep. Cohen: Which bill now?

Mrs. Hart: Can I read this paragraph first?

It might interest this committee to know that in mid 1966, starting out as an amateur bungler, and out of deep concern for the young men and women whom I met at the Inn, formerly operated by the South Congregational Church at 75 Main Street in Hartford, I ended up in early 1969 possessing considerable knowledge of this subject at a not inconsiderable cost in emotional energy and money. During this time I met at least one hundred addicts and ex-addicts, studying the personalities and ways of operation of the addict. I knew the families of some of them, too. During this time, I was instrumental in being an agent responsible in greater part for sending two men to Daytop. I have visited many therapeutic communities meeting ex-addicts in various stages or levels of treatment. During the winter of 1968, I surveyed the prevention and treatment facilities then under the renowned former Commissioner of Addiction Services Agency of New York City, Dr. Efren Ramirez. I therefore yield to very few in my estimation of my ability to assess the nature of the problems of the drug addict and the related nature of the treatment process.

As to House Bill 9113 (AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE TOXICOLOGICAL LABORATORY IN SOUTH CENTRAL Connecticut), I would like to say that this expensive facility is probably going to be required if we continue to pin a lot of our hopes for treatment of the drug dependent person on the methadone process. I don't want this committee to jump to the conclusion that I am prejudiced against the use of methadone. I am not. Methadone is advisable only when the addict is a somewhat older person, starting at approximately 28 years of age, and one who is consequently beginning to tire of the exhausting life of the addict which is accompanied by the constant threat of the police, arrests, and prison. This older addict should have some work skills or some background of work record. He may have a family to