

Act Number	Session	Bill Number	Total Number of Committee Pages	Total Number of House Pages	Total Number of Senate Pages
PA 71-272		5383	14	1	9
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Health</i> 321 • <i>Public Health</i> 492-493 • <i>Public Health</i> 543-546 • <i>Public Health</i> 549-550 • <i>Public Health</i> 556-557 • <i>Public Health</i> 562-563 				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1760(Consent) 	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1646-1649 • 1745-1750

H-111

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

**VOL. 14
PART 4
1451-1967**

1720

MBS

from the Consent Calendar.

RONALD A. SARASIN, 95th District:

Mr. Speaker, I would also ask that on page 3, bottom of the page, Calendar 515, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 0812, An Act to Provide Nursing After-Care to Former Patients of Institutions of the Department of Mental Health, file 230 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

MR. SPEAKER:

So ordered.

RONALD A. SARASIN, 95th District:

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bills on today's Consent Calendar which are:

Calendar No. 330, House Bill No. 5683, An Act Concerning the Reinstatement of the Corporate Existence of the Hartford Tennis Club, Incorporated, file number 423.

Calendar No. 477, Substitute for House Bill No. 5185, An Act Concerning the Interest Charge on Water Lien Assessments by the Town of Plainville, file number 416.

Calendar No. 478, Substitute for House Bill No. 5383, An Act Concerning the Qualifications of the Commissioner of Mental Health, file number 412.

Calendar No. 480, Substitute for House Bill No. 7482, An Act Authorizing an Increase in the Number of Members of a Redevelopment Agency, file number 410.

S-79

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

SENATE

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

**VOL. 14
PART 4
1457-1920**

May 10, 1971

17.

and Adults.

THE CHAIR:

Appropriations Committee.

THE CLERK:

Page 2 on your Calendar. Cal. 468 File 412 Favorable report of the joint standing committee on Public Health and Safety on Substitute H.B. 5383 An Act Concerning the Qualifications of the Commissioner of Mental Health.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Pac.

SENATOR PAC:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR PAC:

This bill would expand the qualifications of the Commissioner of Mental Health to include and in lieu of the present requirements that he be a licensed physician well versed in hospital administration and with some smattering of psychiatry. In lieu of that he most have been an acting commissioner of mental health for at least 18 months and served as division head for at least 5 years. This bill is rather ambiguous but I am very happy to do my little bit to help out and help nominate acting Commissioner Shepherd.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark further?

May 10, 1971

18.

Senator Ives.

SENATOR IVES.

Mr. President, the Clerk has an amendment.

Will the clerk please read the amendment?

THE CLERK:

Amendment offered by Senator Ives of the 32nd Dist.

In line 7 insert an open bracket before the word shall. In line 8 insert a closing bracket after the word and. In line 9, insert brackets around the word hospital. And insert an open bracket before the word and. In line 10 insert a closing bracket and a period after the word psychiatry. Strike out the balance of the line. Strike out line 11, 12, 13 and 14. And insert in lieu thereof the word the.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Ives.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, I move for the adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President what the amendment does and what really the intent of this bill is that we no longer require that the Commissioner of Health be a doctor of medicine licensed to practice medicine in Connecticut. Now the bill in the file is a compromise I assume from the Committee to take care of the acting director.

May 10, 1971

19

In order that he may become Commissioner. But I think that in his case proves that we don't need the requirement of the law. That he shall be a doctor of medicine and therefore the amendment says that the commissioner shall be a person skilled in administration. And I think this is far more important and I think we should bring our law up to date on the appointment of all Commissioners. I would like to go further in other areas, but we have limited this amendment strictly to the Mental Health Department.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Mr. President, I question the germaness of this particular amendment. The bill before deals with Sec. 17-210 of the General Statutes concerning the executive head of the Department of Mental Health. The amendment deals with an entirely different section of the Statutes. Apparently I have been given a different amendment than the one that's being presented to us right now. So if we might stand at ease a second Mr. President, I would like to take a look at the amendment. To find out what's it all about.

THE CHAIR:

There being no objection the Senate will stand at ease briefly while we will see where we are going.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Since this is an entirely different new amendment and I

May 10, 1971

20.

wasn't aware of it, I am sure its through no one's fault perhaps other than my own. As I read the amendment what it does it not only takes care of a specific individual. But it would apply to anybody, anyone and reduce the requirements for any particular individual who might want to qualify for this particular position. I think this is an important enough amendment that I would like to have the opportunity to caucus on it. So I would ask that the matter be held over until tomorrow when we have more opportunity to discuss it. I so move.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection Senator Ives?

SENATOR IVES:

No objection.

THE CHAIR:

The matter will be held over until tomorrow.

THE CLERK:

Turn to page 3 please. Cal. No. 502, File 655. S.B.896. Favorable report of the Senate Committee on Judiciary on S.B. 896 An Act Concerning Sterilization and Consent Thereto.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Jackson.

SENATOR JACKSON.

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

May 12, 1971

21.

It has come to my attention that the Chairman of all of those committees for the bills I mentioned is not here in the circle, I will personally go get him and bring him here Mr. President. And until I return may we take things in their normal order and then go to the schedule I requested.

THE CHAIR:

We will survive without you Senator.

THE CLERK:

Hopefully the Clerk is not confused. We will start at the top of page 2. Cal. 468, File 412 Favorable report of joint standing committee on Public Health and Safety on Substitute H.B. 5383 An Act Concerning the Qualifications of the Commissioner of Mental Health.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Pac.

SENATOR PAC:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR PAC:

This bill would expand the requirements necessary for a Commissioner of Mental Health to include and in lieu of the present requirement that he be a licensed physician well versed in Hospital Administration with a smattering of psychiatry. In lieu

May 12, 1971

22

of this that he will have at least 18 months as an acting Commissioner. And at least five years of Division head in the same department. As I mentioned previously this is rather an ambiguous bill, but I am happy to do my little part towards helping nominate Commissioner Shepherd for this job.

THE CLERK:

The Clerk has an amendment as offered by Senator Ives.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Ives.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President will the clerk please read the Amendment.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment A. as offered by Senator Ives. In line 7 insert an opening bracket before the word "shall."

In line 8, insert a closing bracket after the word "and."

In line 9, insert brackets around the word hospital and insert an opening bracket before the word "and."

In line 10, insert a closing bracket and a period after the word "psychiatry" and strike out the balance of the line.

Strike out lines 11, 12, 13 and 14 and insert in lieu thereof the word "The."

THE CHAIR:

Senator Ives.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, I move for the adoption of the amendment.

May 12, 1971

23.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, the other day when the Amendment was introduced I explained it. But basically we were trying to do the same thing with the amendment that the bill does except we are not making a limitation in the bill. We are saying that the Commissioner shall be a person experienced in administration. And capable in other fields, but does not require to be a doctor. Trained in psychiatry. Or he shall have been a Deputy Commissioner for eighteen months. Its a, what we think a cleaning up of the Statute. It gives broader powers to the Governor which is true to pick who he thinks is the best qualified individual. And this case of course will be Mr. Shepherd. But we don't think that a bill should be drawn specifically to give him the Commissioner-ship. And this is what this amendment does.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage of the Amendment. Will you remark further? Senator Pac.

SENATOR PAC:

Mr. President, I oppose this amendment. The intent is good. In our hearing there were all sorts of people from all walks of life who came in and spoke highly and favorably that we retain the requirements so that Commissioner Shepherd could become our Commissioner. However, there disagrees of opposition to opening

May 12, 1971

24

this up. And completely doing away with the medical requirements. And the degrees of opposition at the times were extreme. And I think that a change of this type, a substantive change of this type should be held and it should be the form of a public hearing. At another time and at another place. I'm not saying that its a bad suggestion or proposal but I think that it does deserve its day in Court before the whole Legislature. So I am opposed in this respect to this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage of the Amendment. Will you remark? Senator Caldwell.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Mr. President, very briefly I join with Senator Pac in Opposing this amendment. This was the type of bill that was intended originally, it should have been introduced as such at a full hearing. I don't believe that we should open large loopholes and eliminate qualifications in requirements for people in important positions. Unless we know who the individuals are. And are satisfied that they are people as completely qualified as Mr. Shepherd in this case.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage of the amendment. Will you remark further? Senator Ives.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, not belate the issue. But the amendment

May 12, 1971

25

puts the bill back into the original form which was the bill heard at the public hearing. And a full debate was heard. In the wisdom of the committee they came out with this bill. We are asking that they put it back to the original bill.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR PAC, on the bill as amended by Senate Amendment Sch. A.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Mr. President, I question the vote.

THE CHAIR:

Will all senators please take their seats so we don't have any unnecessary hasseling. All Senators who wish to vote by a rising vote please take his, her or their seat.

The question is on passage of the Amendment, offered by Senator Ives. Senator Buckley.

SENATOR BUCKLEY:

Mr. President, I move that when the vote be taken, it be taken by a roll call.

THE CHAIR:

(There is a motion for roll call vote, which is in order before the standing vote has been ordered. All those in favor of a roll call vote on the amendment signify by saying aye. AYE. Opposed nay. More than 20% having moved for a roll call vote.

May 12, 1971

26.

A roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Amend. Sch. A.

THE CHAIR:

Does anyone object to our proceeding at this time without waiting for additional senators. I think that most of them know that we are in session here. If not will you proceed with the roll call.

Whole number voting 35
Necessary for passage 18
Those voting yea 17
Those voting nay 18
Those absent and not voting 1

The Amendment is defeated. Senator Pac.

SENATOR PAC.

Mr. President.

SENATOR PAC:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further?

SENATOR PAC:

My previous remarks apply.

THE CHAIR:

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

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
AND
SAFETY**

**PART 1
1-491**

**1971
Index**

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

THURSDAY

MARCH 11, 1971

And I hope that you see fit to pass that one.

Now on bill 5383 regarding the qualifications of the commissioner of mental health, is that on today?

Rep. Cohen: I don't think so.

Mr. Dellafera: Oh, I'm sorry. Let me say that we favor it anyway. We think Ernie Shepherd will do a great job and you don't have to be a doctor in that area.

On the - 339, we are in favor of this which will assist the people, I think to a great extent, in pinning down the amount of dollars that they can have per dependent.

5554, we are opposed to this bill. I suppose I have to selfishly say, Dr. Cohen, that you left off the nursing home people on here, and we've got about \$70 million annually for this year in the budget, we're not on it. But this is not the reason I'm opposed to it. The reason I'm opposed to it is I don't think it's necessary to have these people who are providers of service on a commission that's going to determine the amount of dollars that are going to be paid, or someone representing them, either. It puts a provider in a position of saying to the commission, well, I need \$100 a day or \$50 a day or \$20 per day for routine services and then I'm going to set that rate. In effect, paying myself. And I think that the Hospital Cost Commission as it is now constituted has really done a good job over the years. I've testified before this committee several times or the commission several times and believe me they have had the interest of the state of Connecticut as far as medical costs are concerned and they've done everything they could to keep this cost down. I don't think the cost of medical care has gone up because people want it to go up. To give you an idea, we're hiring registered nurses in 1960 at \$1.70 an hour. Today the minimum is \$4 to \$4.50 a day for routine staff duty. So it's the labor that has gone up tremendously in the nursing homes, the hospitals. And it's now tending to level off. I think that we will approach this but as long as we keep raising salaries, this is what's going to happen. This Cost Commission as a matter of fact always voted, in my judgment, as far as the nursing homes were concerned and in spite of the previous testimony, a rate of reimbursement lower than the actual cost and the actual cost of nursing homes always runs from twenty-one to twenty-eight months behind, as reported to the cost analysts on our annual statement which is submitted every September 30th. So I would recommend that you leave this the way it is, that you do not add people to it. I have no objection, I think it might be good, to have a legislator on the commission. If you want to call him a watchdog or whatever it is, have him on there so he can look this over. I think this is good. But to expand this commission to a point

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
AND
SAFETY**

**PART 2
492-901**

1971

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
AND
SAFETY**

**PART 2
492-901**

1971

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

SENATOR STANLEY J. PAC
and
REP. MORRIS N. COHEN
presiding

Members present: Senators: Pac, Gunther, Zajac
Representatives: Cohen, Lyons, Yacavone, Auger
LaRosa, Stroffolino, Connolly, Clarke, Clark,
Rose, Miller

Sen. Pac: All right. We'll get under way. The main purpose is to record the testimony. First we'll have the legislators speak and I'd like to recognize for that purpose Representative Brian Gaffney.

Rep. Gaffney: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my statement is in reference to House Bill 5383 (AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH). I appear here today in behalf of the Meskill administration to urge the committee to give a favorable report which would remove the qualification that the Commissioner of Mental Health be a doctor of medicine. Specifically, this involves Mr. Ernest Shepherd who has been Acting as Department Head in Mental Health for some time now under the previous Democratic administration. The Governor would like to keep Mr. Shepherd on but finds it impossible the way the law reads now. Mr. Shepherd is known to all of us as having done one of the finest jobs with this department. He's turned out to be a fine administrator and pointed up to us the fact that it is not necessary for a, for this department to have a doctor at its head. Mr. Shepherd has proven that a gentleman with administrative qualifications can run this type of department. What we need most of all in a new commissioner is that he be a good administrator. Although doctors may be good administrators, they certainly are not trained in this method. Nor are lawyers. As a further fact which I would like to point out to the committee, twenty-seven of the thirty-five general

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

hospitals of this state, the administrator is not a doctor. So there are, there are medical institutions in which doctors are not the chief administrators but laymen who are qualified. This is what we would like in this state. This bill is specifically pointed towards Mr. Shepherd although we think that the law as it's presently constituted limits us in our choice of a good administrator. I would therefore urge this committee to support this bill so we can get an outstanding man now, and in the future broaden our field in the choice for an outstanding man.

Sen. Pac: Any questions?

Rep. Cohen: I believe what you had in mind was just for Commissioner Shepherd. We couldn't change the state law so that anyone can come in as Commissioner.

Rep. Gaffney: No, I, I specifically it is for Mr. Shepherd-

Rep. Cohen: So we have to change-

Rep. Gaffney: But, no. But what I'm saying is that if there is a gentleman as Mr. Shepherd who is that qualified to run this department, then in the future when Mr. Shepherd retires, why isn't there somebody else? Why does it have to be-

Rep. Cohen: You're immediately changing the statute to the extent that it does not have to be a doctor whereas we're making an exception in his case. I don't think we should have it a permanent record that anyone not a doctor can apply.

Rep. Gaffney: Well, that's where I disagree. Mr. Shepherd, by Mr. Shepherd himself, he points up the very fact that it doesn't necessarily have to be a doctor.

Rep. Cohen: But you're changing the statutes completely and permanently.

Rep. Gaffney: That is what the bill says. Our first priority is Mr. Shepherd, but Mr. Shepherd points up the need for a change in the law.

Rep. Cohen: That part I do allow, the other I'm not going to go along.

Sen. Pac: Thank you. Representative Truex or - I wasn't quite sure who came here first.

Rep. Truex from the 23rd District: They told me I was here first. Also ladies before gentlemen. I said that's why I was not very fond of Women's Lib. I love this. Good Morning Senator Pac, Rep. Cohen and members of the committee. I would like to speak briefly about three bills this morning.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

Frances Heim: I have a statement from Dr. McCarthy. Chairmen and Committee members: Health services must be performed by accredited doctors, nurses and hygienists in a public school environment. These services are both educational and personal and must be done in the structure and mechanisms of a school environment. As school medical advisor of West Hartford for twenty years, I have realized the real function of our nurses and hygienists is educational. It would be wrong to take the educational and day-by-day personal communication between our health personnel and students and teachers away by placing it out of the control of the Board of Education and into the hands of less educationally oriented town officials. I am strongly opposed to this bill. #6506. And it's signed by Doctor Frank McCarthy, School Medical Advisor in West Hartford and practicing pediatrician in Hartford for twenty years. And I'll submit that to you. And I oppose the bill myself as a school hygienist.

Sen. Pac: Thank you, ma'am. Dr. John Donnelly. Eleanor Arnold next.

Dr. Donnelly, Psychiatrist and Chief, Institute of Living; Chairman of the Committee on Mental Health for the State Medical Society and a member of the Board of Mental Health, State of Connecticut: I appear before the Committees to represent the State Medical Society and the Board of Mental Health, both of which oppose the passage of H.B. 5383, the act concerning the qualifications of the Commissioner of Mental Health.

Committee member: Opposed?

Dr. Donnelly: Opposed. This position of both parties of the Commissioners of Health and Mental Health should be physicians with qualifications necessary to operate these departments. The field of psychiatry and the operations of the many facilities of the Department of Mental Health calls for a man qualified to make sound professional judgments with respect to completing programs for the sums available by state appropriations. We believe that the position requires a man with long experience in the field of mental health because the major facilities of the Department are the state hospitals. Therefore a man with experience in hospital administration is a most desirable criterion. Commissioner of Mental Health also has the responsibility of attracting and recruiting psychiatrists to fill the major positions throughout the Department. And we believe that a psychiatrist or at least a physician with knowledge and experience in the field of mental health is necessary in this role.

The State of Connecticut has been fortunate in the past in that the administration of its mental health department, like the Department of Mental Health, has been removed from the political arena. The present bill would permit the appointment of a Commissioner on political rather than on professional qualifications.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

This bill has been introduced, as we understand it, in order to permit the appointment of Mr. Ernest A. Shepherd as Commissioner of Mental Health. The Board of Mental Health and the Connecticut State Medical Society support legislation to permit Mr. Shepherd's appointment as Commissioner of Mental Health because he has had long experience in the field and he has also experienced the operation of Blue Hills Hospital as a Division of Alcoholism in the Department of Mental Health.

The State Medical Society and the Board of Mental Health therefore recommend that this bill be amended so as to enable the appointment specifically of Mr. Shepherd as Commissioner of Mental Health but the present statute be not otherwise changed.

It's not proposed at this time with this presentation to list the many reasons why a physician, especially a psychiatrist, can in our opinion best direct the Department of Mental Health but should the Committee so desire prefer to present these reasons or meet with the Committee to answer any questions.

Sen. Pac: Any questions? Would your objections be the same knowing that the Deputy Commissioner will have to be a qualified -

Dr. Donnelly: Yes, sir. I might say that one of the functions of the Commissioner of Mental Health is to advise the Board of Mental Health which is composed of lay members and of professional members with regard to the various programs etc. The Board of Mental Health has to make the final decisions and lay the philosophy. If the Commissioner is not a psychiatrist, in my opinion, the Board of Mental Health will not receive the types of advice and be able to answer the types of questions which are necessary in developing policies for the provision of mental health services in this state.

Sen. Pac: Thank you.

Rep. Lyons, 149th: Doctor, of course you're being quite inconsistent here. You're saying you only want a psychiatrist or medical doctor as Commissioner, and yet you are making an exception. And it seems to me it ought to be one way or the other.

Dr. Donnelly: I agree with you.

Rep. Lyons: You're not making it one way or the other though, sir.

Dr. Donnelly: I am not making it one way or the other. I understand that this has been introduced. The Board of Mental Health for a year has been looking for a psychiatrist for this particular

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

job. There are a number of reasons why it's been very difficult to get one. One was the, the rates of pay for Commissioner of Mental Health compared to other states in the country. And the State of Connecticut is one of the lowest paying positions for a Commissioner of Mental Health. Consequently we have interviewed many psychiatrists interested in the job of Commissioner of Mental Health who have taken positions even as Deputy Commissioners of Mental Health in other states at higher rates of pay than we can afford to pay as Commissioner. Also with the change coming up in terms of the new governor, many psychiatrists were not willing to commit themselves to taking on the position knowing that the change could be possibly effected. So that for these reasons in the past year we have interviewed considerable number of people and because there has been, Mr. Shepherd has worked in this Department for a long time and is known to the Board of Mental Health, for a variety of reasons this represents a compromise. We know that the Governor has indicated he will, that he would like to approve it. Mr. Gaffney has submitted this bill. And we, on behalf of the Board of Mental Health, say that we are willing to accept him in view of these other difficulties which we cannot overcome at the present time.

The position of the State Medical Society is the same. That we are faced with a reality situation and therefore we are willing to go with Mr. Shepherd whom we know and with whom we have worked now for many years. Nevertheless on the basic principle of changing this in the future, to change the statute in the future, Mr. Shepherd has a certain number of years, whatever the number of years may be, and if for any reason he were to leave the position of the Commissioner of Mental Health, the new statute would in effect leave the position wide open without any qualifications except administration, which would apply pretty well to any kind of business man that one can think.

Rep. Lyons: But Doctor, one of your statements was that you felt that a non-medical man would have difficulty in recruiting professional medical men, psychiatrists.

Dr. Donnelly: Right.

Rep. Lyons: You know, Doctor, if, if I was the Commissioner of Mental Health and I was a lay man, and I had a \$100,000 to offer a man for a position, I'll bet you dollars to doughnuts I could find a doctor or psychiatrist that'd take that. So actually, don't you think it's a little less Mr. Shepherd and a little more the fact that the pay for those positions is pretty small? It keeps the positions open. Don't you agree-

Dr. Donnelly: (not clear).

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

Rep. Lyons: No, no. The other positions as well. Don't you agree as you did in the case of the Commissioner that the Deputy Commissioner, that these positions are not attractively, attractive enough economically to have good qualified medical men take the jobs. The same thing would apply and does apply to the Commissionership, isn't that true?

Dr. Donnelly: That is partly correct. It is only partly correct, however. There are a considerable number of psychiatrists who are interested in public service and this type of public service in particular as a part of their own personality and their own interests. Therefore, from the point of view of the economics, as far as the State of Connecticut is concerned, it's perfectly true that if a man has interest and the State of Illinois is willing to offer him more than the State of Connecticut, it's quite clear that he will go to Illinois. And this has been one of the major problems. There's no doubt about that. We have urged this time and time again. However, if we're talking about the economics, changing the economics to solve the problem, that is one thing, but to change the bill which would permit a man who is not a psychiatrist to occupy that position because the rate of pay is something that he would be prepared to accept does not say anything for anything for the development of mental health programs of the State. That is our concern.

Sen. Pac: Thank you, Doctor. Eleanor Arnold?

Eleanor Arnold: I'm from the Conn. Child Welfare, but I also have a friend who has a very brief statement and her's is more general. Could Mrs. Greene speak first?

Sen. Pac: All right. Yes.

Eileen Greene of Litchfield: I'm President of the Connecticut Child Welfare Association. The Conn. Child Welfare Association firmly believes that no child in this state should be without preventative medicine and medical care during the formative years of his life. A well child will become an asset, and, one not so cared for, a lingering burden to the taxpayer. This citizen's organi - Association would like to go on record for bills extending health services to the children of this state. We're especially for bills #832, 884, 644, and 1370 and 1371. Thank you.

Sen. Pac: Thank you. Frances T. Roberts.

Eleanor Arnold of Greenwich speaking as a citizen: I'm a Board member of the Conn. Child Welfare Association and through my work

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

wanted jobs, if they wanted to qualify for foundation money and other contributions or donations from people who would be concerned that they have this tax exemption, I think they could simply amend their articles of incorporation just to take any participation with insurance companies right out of the picture.

Now there are many other centers who may wish to deal with insurance companies and who may not be so concerned about foundation money and their tax qualification status.

Sen. Pac: Seems to be a simple answer.

Mr. Yeats: I think it can be solved.

Sen. Pac: Thank you. Eileen Greene. And Dr. Kenny next. Eileen Greene. She spoke? Dr. Kenny. William F. Appicelli next.

Dr. William Kenny: I am a practicing psychiatrist at the Institute of Living in Hartford and I am Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society. I appear here today in behalf of the Society which is made up of 350 psychiatrists throughout the State, to oppose the passage of bill 5383, which is the bill concerning the change in qualifications of the Commissioner.

Rather than read this statement, which I will lead, leave with you, this, I won't read it for the simple reason that many of the arguments in it have already been presented by Dr. Donnelly and I don't wish to waste your time or the time of the interested public people here today. And perhaps instead, just to make a few comments.

We are against the passage of this particular bill. Arguments have been made that the fact, that the Commissioner of Mental Health should be a physician, preferably with psychiatric training, that this is an archaic law. And we've heard this several times. We wish to point out what has been pointed out before that it's hardly archaic since this has only been in existence since 1957. I also wish to point out that we are also prepared to accept a compromise on the, without change in the law from the specific appointment of Mr. Shepherd. And let me just make a few comments about that and then I'll leave it. We feel that Mr. Shepherd is an outstanding individual. He is a man with long experience in the Department of Mental Health, as Dr. Donnelly has again pointed out. He's worked in the Drug and Alcohol Division. He's highly respected by the people in the Department. He's highly respected by psychiatrists throughout the State. And equally important, if not indeed more important, he is well respected by a number of

citizens organizations which exist throughout the State. And we feel that this man is somewhat exceptional and that he may be able to bring the various interests in psychiatry throughout the State, throughout the State of Connecticut together in some particular way. I think the other advantages of agreeing to a particular compromise are that the appointment of Mr. Shepherd would allow those who have an argument, we don't agree with this argument, but it is nonetheless an argument, that a psychiatrist is not necessary. It would allow them time to see how well this works.

And finally, we would wish to point out that the number of psychiatrists, it is our opinion at least, that the number of psychiatrists who will apply for this particular type of position over the next few years is substantially going to increase. We feel this for two reasons. One that the number of training programs which are focusing on community participation, on community organization, on working with all groups in the mental health field, these are increasing in considerable numbers and turning out more and more people. More and more people of this particular persuasion, of this particular preference, who are psychiatrists will therefore, in our opinion, be applying for this particular post. I think, as I said I believe in my prepared statement, I suppose just those informal comments. They're formal since they're recorded. It's perhaps as much as I have to say unless you have any question.

Sen. Pac: I think you've made a good brief. Any questions?

Rep. Lyons, 149th: Doctor, one of the problems that keep coming up here from the medical profession is the, in this case o.k., but in no other case. As I pointed out to the doctor who preceded you in your discussion, if you're opposed to something, it seems to me you ought to be opposed to it period. I can understand that exceptions can be made for valid reasons. But in the case of Mr. Shepherd, who is really an administrator give me a corollary between that and many hospital administrators who are not medical men.

Dr. Kenny: Hospital administrators do not have the same degree of decisions to make which involve strictly medical matters as the head of the Department of Mental Health would have to make. Hospital administrator, the best individual I can think is one I know personally is Mr. Ives, the administrator of University of Connecticut's Medical. The University - they just don't have, they don't, it's very difficult to delineate in detail. They don't really have very much medical say so. But the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health has to have.

Rep. Lyons: Thank you.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

Dr. Hoffmeyer: No, sir, I cannot say that he has been. It is a state wide moratorium type thing and we have been asked by -

Rep. Lyons: Doctor, the point is I'd be pretty damn shocked as a legislator if I thought that in the School for the Deaf or the school for the mentally retarded or any children who have deficiencies is operating at the present time in a sub-standard building because the State has put a moratorium on building. It'd be a pretty sad day in May I think for Connecticut. And I certainly, if I were you, I'd bring it to the attention of the Governor that this wiring is being held up because of this moratorium. Certainly in relation to a fire alarm, I don't know how in the devil you people can operate without a fire alarm and I'll certainly support that bill.

Dr. Hoffmeyer: The, we have a fire alarm system that's thirty - forty years old, and it goes out on us. And the parts cannot be obtained. So there are periods when we don't have it. And we did go to the Public Works new Commissioner and he asked us to, this was just last Thursday, and he asked us to list our priorities of the three. We have three projects. And he asked us to list our priority and then he would consider it, whether he would release the money or not. And so this is improper, sir.

Rep. Lyons: Thank you.

Sen. Pac: Thank you. A. Flanagan. Anyone else wishing to speak?

Dr. Elias Marsh: I apologize for not having signed up. I did not know of this hearing until just a few minutes ago. I'm speaking strictly as an individual and strictly speaking without the knowledge of my superior, whom I will not identify at the moment, but I'd like to speak in relation to bill 5383, and act concerning the qualifications of the Commissioner of Mental Health.

I speak as one who twice held the position of Commissioner of Mental Health. In 1954 I was appointed Acting Commissioner of Mental Health by Governor Lodge. And in 1957-58 I was appointed Acting Commissioner of Mental Health by Governor Ribicoff. I am a physician and I understand there's been testimony this morning concerning this bill in terms of the removal of the requirement that the Commissioner of Mental Health be a doctor of medicine licensed to practice medicine in Connecticut.

On the basis of my experience, and actually I have worked in administrative and other capacities in the State of Connecticut for over twenty years, I do not believe that it is necessary that the Commissioner of Mental Health be a doctor of medicine. In that sense I would support the bill that eliminates this

requirement that the Commissioner be a doctor of medicine.

In my own experience and on the basis of my observation, the job is primarily an administrative one. The experience of a psychiatrist helps, but it is not the prime requirement. I would make one minor, one recommendation for a change in the bill as submitted. The bill as submitted eliminates also the requirement that the Commissioner have a broad experience in hospital administration and as written says simply, that he shall have a broad experience in administration.

I do believe that the requirement that the Commissioner of Mental Health have broad experience in health or mental health administration is a sound one. I think the deletion of hospital administration is an excellent deletion. After all, the present movement in the mental health field is for much more community activity than hospital activity. In that sense the requirement for hospital administration is a limiting and unrealistic requirement. But I am convinced though that although the job is primarily an administrative job, and therefore should be seen in that sense, there is need for some technical knowhow, technical skills, in the health or mental health field. And I would therefore urge that for the change that he shall be - he shall have broad experience in health or mental health administration, that this bill be supported. I repeat I was speaking as a private individual at the present moment, but on the basis of my past experience and observation, my boss does not know I am here.

Sen. Pac: It's refreshing to hear your viewpoint, particularly with your background. Anyone else?

Herbert Anderson, Executive Vice-President of the Connecticut Hospital Association: I believe Mr. Tilson signed up to be heard but he had to dash off to another hearing upstairs.

The Hospital Association appears here in support of HB 6294, which was heard by various spokesmen earlier this morning. The Association did appear in 1957 and 1959 in support of this principle, which set up the permission for non-profit health care centers for the Greater New Haven area. And was at that time primarily sponsored by the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council.

We have general support of the genius we think of this bill because this is leaning to a, a part and a role to play somewhat in advance of something that'll be coming to the attention of the legislature perhaps a year or two from now. And that legislation is being developed in Washington at the moment in a system that addresses itself to the establishment of health care corporations throughout this country. Known As the Ameri-Plan, and I think perhaps all of you have been

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

This written statement is being presented on behalf of the Hartford Psychiatric Society. I would have liked to appear at the hearing, but my schedule made it impossible for me to be in Hartford today.

The Hartford Psychiatric Society supports HE 7811 which would provide an appropriation of \$15,000.00 for a Mental Health Center in Hartford.

This appropriation would enable the staff of the Hartford Mental Health Center to begin its most important work. In so doing a start would be made in providing some of the psychiatric services so sorely needed - services which will eventually be incorporated into the Mental Health Center. We feel strongly that the commencement of such services would certainly provide evidence of good faith to the community that a Mental Health Center is finally going to be established.

Those of us who are closely associated with providing mental health services throughout Connecticut recognize the vital necessity of this facility and respectfully urge the Public Health and Safety Committee to act favorably on HE 7811.

###

The Hartford Psychiatric Society supports HE 7809, which will create an Advisory Board for the Hartford Mental Health Center. Discussions concerning the establishment of a Mental Health Center in Hartford have been going on for many years with little progress having been made towards its realization. In the meantime the needs of the community particularly in the north end have become increasingly pressing for this kind of facility.

It is for these reasons that the Hartford Psychiatric Society supports HE 7809 and urges the Public and Safety Committee to act favorably on this important legislation.

The Hartford Psychiatric Society would like to endorse the position of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society in opposition to House Bill 5383.

We feel it would not be in the interests of the people of Connecticut to change the present law eliminating the requirement that the Commissioner of Mental Health be a physician with psychiatric training.

If the purpose of this proposal is to allow the present Acting Mental Health Commissioner - Mr. Ernest Shepherd - to be

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY

MARCH 23, 1971

named the Commissioner, we would support some type of special legislation which would specifically name Mr. Shepherd as Commissioner. He is a particularly well qualified individual, whom we feel would serve effectively. We can not support any legislation which would permanently change the law.

For these reasons the Hartford Psychiatric Society urges the Public Health and Safety Committee to oppose House Bill 5383.

End of statements submitted for the record.