

<b>Act Number</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Total Number of Committee Pages</b>	<b>Total Number of House Pages</b>	<b>Total Number of Senate Pages</b>
PA 71-34		5291	2	1	1
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Health &amp; Safety 50-51</li> </ul>				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>694(Consent)</li> </ul>	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>667</li> </ul>

**H-109**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
1971**

**VOL. 14  
PART 2  
449-973**

Monday, March 15, 1971

8.

ASST. CLERK:

MBS

Business on the Calendar. Turning to page 1 on the Consent Calendar.

BRUCE L. MORRIS, 111th District:

Mr. Speaker, as per House Rule No. 48 I'd like to move consideration of the following items on the Consent Calendar. Calendar No. 71, H.B. 6546 An Act Concerning the Sale of Birds or Quadrupeds. File No. 66.

Calendar No. 72, H. B. No. 5322, file number 59.

Calendar No. 73, H. B. No. 5291, file number 63.

MR. SPEAKER:

You've heard the motion from the gentleman from the 111th, is there objection to any of these items being considered for adoption today on the Consent Calendar. If not, the question is on acceptance of the joint committees favorable report and passage of the bills. All those in favor indicate by saying aye, those opposed. The bills indicated are passed.

BRUCE L. MORRIS, 111th District:

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move consideration of passing of placing on the Consent Calendar, Calendar No. 84, Sub. for H. B. No. 6706, file number 70.

MR. SPEAKER:

You've heard the motion of the gentleman from the 111th, is there any objection? Hearing none, this item will be placed on the Consent Calendar.

ASST. CLERK:

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SENATE**

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all those in favor signify by saying, "aye". Opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 102. FILE NO. 63. Favorable report of the joint standing committee on Public Health and Safety. House Bill No. 5291. An Act Concerning Columbariums Located on the Premises of a Religious Society or Corporation.

SENATOR PAC:

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

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR PAC:

Under the present law, no vault, moseleum or columbarium can be located above ground except that an established cemetary of five acres or more. This bill would permit the location of coumbarium on the premises of religious organizations. These columbariums of course, contained the creamated remains of the dead and in no way would it be a health hazard. I think its a good bill. I think in this day and age when land is becoming scarce we should perhaps encourage more people to take advantage of this service.

THE CHAIR:

I hope in no particular rush. Question is on passage of the bill. Will you ramrk further? If not, all those favor of passage of the bill, signify their intentions by saying, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
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THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 1971

Sen. Pac: Anyone else on 5252? The hearings are closed on Bill 5292. Now we'll proceed on to HB 5291. This is AN ACT CONCERNING COLUMBARIUMS LOCATED ON THE PREMISES OF A RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OR CORPORATION.

Rep. Frate: 150th District, town of Darien: I've sat here since ten o'clock this morning listening to the feud between the beauticians and the barbers. Now I've sat here to listen to the feud between all the professional men, chironractors and dentists and all this.

Now this bill has to do with every one of us. Eventually we're all going to take a trip and wind up in a cemetary or wind up in a vault or some situation like that, but I'm not going to take any of your time because there's an attorney here representing the religious society and he will explain what this bill would do. What it really does is correct the present law. There's a difference in the law the way it is now. So I will introduce to you Sam Dorrance who will speak on this bill.

Samuel R. Dorrance of the firm of Hawthorne, Ackerly & Dorrance in New Canaan, and I'm here on behalf of St. Luke's Parish of Darien, Conn, in support of the proposed amendments in to Sections 19-161 and 19-162 of the General Statutes. These sections as they presently exist have to do with regulation of standards of construction and use for burial vaults.

Section 19-161 prohibits the construction of "any vault, crypt, columbarium or mausoleum for public use, wholly or partially above the surface of the ground, to be used to contain the body of any dead person" except in an established cemetery of not less than five acres, and after the plans and specifications have been approved by the commissioner of health.

Section 19-162 entitled "Inspection. Burial Prohibited until Certificate Obtained" prohibits the actual use of any such structure until the issuance of a certificate certifying that the plans and specifications have been complied with.

The proposed amendment to each of these sections would simply clarify the fact that a columbarium does not fall within these regulations in the sense that a columbarium is a structure used only to contain the ashes of persons who have been cremated. The proposed amendments do not change in any way the requirement relating to

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structures "to be used to contain the body of any dead person." That's from the statutes that exist. The purpose of the amendments is to make clear that Sections 19-161 and 19-162 apply only to such structures. The amendments are necessary because the word "columbarium" appears in both sections along with vault, crypt, and mausoleum. A columbarium is not a structure used to contain the body of a dead person. It is a structure in which the ashes of deceased persons who have been cremated may be stores. The storage of such ashes involves absolutely no factor whatsoever of health or public safety. Such remains are totally, unequivocally devoid of any harmful or dangerous element. The excellent safeguards set forth in Sections 19-161 and 162 for structures to be used to contain bodies have no bearing whatever upon columbariums containing only the ashes remaining after cremation. While the word "columbarium" in itself implies a structure for the foregoing purpose, the proposed amendments specify this limited use and also limits the proposed exception to columbariums located on the premises of any religious society or corporation. If the bill containing these amendments is passed it will clear up the existing ambiguity and self-contradiction in the existing statutory sections 19-161 and 19-162, will relieve the Health Department of responsibility for projects with which it has no concern, and will permit ecclesiastical societies to provide dignified and useful facilities for the safekeeping of the remains after cremation of deceased persons, without unreasonable limitations.

For the information of the committee, in case the word columbarium is unfamiliar entity, these structures frequently are not even buildings. They can be landscaped walls, various other extremely attractively designed places in which niches are built in for the storage of these ashes.

In addition to the statement I read to you, I also have some pictures of typical columbariums in New York State showing the sort of structure which I have just mentioned. Thank you.

Sen. Pac: Will you file your statement with the secretary. Anyone else wishing to make a statement on this bill? If not I must apologize, we've all had a hard morning, and I think you all want to be heard. Now we'll stay here as long as necessary to hear you even if I'm the last one. So from here on in we'll proceed on any bill. Go up to microphone 99 or 100.