

<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 71-424		7176	3	1	1
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>State &amp; Urban Development</i> 230-232</li> </ul>				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3274</li> </ul>	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2480</li> </ul>

**H-114**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
1971**

**VOL. 14  
PART 7  
3011-3376**

Thursday, May 20, 1971 78.

CARL R. AJELLO, JR.:

Mr. Speaker, may this item be passed temporarily.

MR. SPEAKER:

So ordered.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 990, Substitute for H.B. No. 7176, an Act authorizing the establishment of a Housing Authority Police Force.

VICTOR TUDAN:

Mr. Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark.

VICTOR TUDAN:

Very briefly, that this Bill permits a Housing Authority to establish its own Housing Police Force. The Housing Authority shall be appointed by the local Housing...the local Authority... authorization that appoint the local police, and this will come under the jurisdiction of the local police. This will be subject, as well, to the local Housing Authority. All candidates will be required to take the same courses that the local police do. It's a good Bill, and it should pass. By the way, Mr. Speaker, they will be under the jurisdiction of the local Chief of Police.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the Bill. If not, all those in favor indicate by saying "aye". Opposed. The Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 992, Substitute for H.B. No. 7834, an Act

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**S-81  
CONNECTICUT  
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**SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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**VOL. 14  
PART 6  
2436-2873**

May 26, 1971

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed, Nay? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Page 17, Calendar 928, File 1076, Favorable report of the Committee on State and Urban Development on Sub. HB 7176, An Act Authorizing the Establishment of a Housing Authority Police Force.

SENATOR LIEBERMAN:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. This bill would authorize municipal housing authorities to maintain their own police forces. The bill also prescribes the method of appointment of those forces. It provides that the housing authority police forces shall be subject to the control of the local chief of police. Under special tentative arrangements such forces have been in operation in some municipalities in the state, including New Haven, with some success, and in that sense this bill would legitimize their operation. I move its passage.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed, Nay? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar 929, File 1075, Favorable report of the Committee on Education on Sub HB 7312, An Act Authorizing the Establishment of Schools Without Walls and the Delegation by School Boards to Community Committees of the Power to Administer Same.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**STATE  
AND  
URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

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necessary. I think they can be pretty much self-sufficient.

Rep. Blumenthal, 56th District: Might this in some cases of, say, towns where they've got like a full-time job with the building inspector, but they could really use a little more help - might this invite some of these towns to add on added personnel and blame it on the building code, just because the state was footing the ticket?

Mr. Cabulus: Yes, sir, I would say that this would be a perfect invitation for people to add personnel that perhaps they should have had before and never did put on, and from a purely personal standpoint, I would like to see some personnel in my own office.

Rep. Tudan: Thank you, Mr. Cabulus. Anyone else in opposition? 7176 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES OF HOUSING AUTHORITIES.

Officer William F. O'Brien, Hartford Police Department, Training Division: I am here to represent Chief Thomas J. Vaughn. The chief is not against the idea of the appointment of special constable, only in the manner of appointment. At present, under the city charter, the chief does have the power to appoint special police officers, and presently they have a model city program which has developed, or is in the process of developing, special security-type police officers for housing authorities. The chief feels that he has the responsibility, or he would have the responsibility, of the training and the duties and the regulations of special police officers, so he should have the power to appoint or disapprove any applicants. Thank you.

Rep. Tudan: Any questions?

Rep. Blumenthal, 56th District: Would you think they should have - the chief should have jurisdiction over these people also, sort of on an equal basis with the housing authority, or what chain of command or problems do you see in chain of command?

Officer O'Brien: Well, I do think there would be a conflict in regards to regulations, because they would have the power of a police officer, so they should follow the guidelines, rules, and regulations of the police, in regards to your training and keeping up with the changing of your court decisions, and so forth, and there could be a conflict in regards to communication between the two parties, whereas, if it was under the control of the appointment by the chief, you could

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maintain this coordination.

Rep. Tudan: Do you think there is a need for these constables in some of these housing projects?

Officer O'Brien: Well, the people in the housing authorities would like to have more protection. There is a need, but the idea is training. If you just take a man and appoint him a special police officer, and he has no idea of rules or regulations, city ordinances, state laws, there could be conflict, because he would have the power of arrest, according to this bill, so he would have to be definitely trained. Thank you.

Rep. Tudan: Thank you.

Mr. Mark Berger, Legal Advisor, New Haven Police Department: I'd also like to speak in opposition to H.B. 7176 as presently drawn. We support strongly the statements with reference to the problems that would occur in the Hartford Police Department, and I think we can add some measure of experience, as far as what has happened in New Haven with housing authority security police. We have had an experimental program in New Haven with housing authority security police, running I think approximately a year in length. The arrangement between the housing authority and the city police department is one that avoids the kind of jurisdictional problems that were brought up before. The control is firmly in the hands of the chief of police. The standards for appointment are those of city police officers to insure that the highest possible standards are maintained. The training, the twenty-week training course that our city policemen go through, also is applicable to the housing authority security police who may supplement with additional training if they will, but we can be assured that they receive the minimum training necessary for urban police. We support the idea of having housing authority police, but, to give you a few specifics looking at this bill, perhaps some of our objections will become clear. First of all, appointment is by the first selectman or chief executive officer of the municipality. In fact, most of the progressive and forward looking and thinking in terms of law enforcement is to remove the selection process from political control. I think most cities in the State of Connecticut have moved in that direction, and I see this bill, reserving the appointing authority in a politically elected official as a step backwards. I'd also add that the arrangement seems to be that the chief executive officer shall appoint those whom the housing authority recommends.

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What you've excluded in this process is the professional and experienced judgment of the city police officials, who should have some say in this process, but, by virtue of the language of this bill, do not. Another problem is the jurisdictional limitation of the authority of housing authority police. I know in other cities we did look into experience in New York, with respect to housing authority police. There they have a 30,000-man city police force supplemented by something like a 5,000-man housing authority force. The housing authority people have fairly solid jurisdictions to work in. They work in fairly large housing authority developments, and that's not the case in Connecticut. I know in New Haven some housing authority properties are separated, so what you'd be doing by limiting the authority of the police officer, the housing authority police officer to housing authority property, is to say when you drive out of your particular place where you are and go to another place some distance away, during the interim, close your eyes. That's a very difficult position...

Rep. Tudan: Mr. Berger and Officer O'Brien, if this was changed to say the chief of police, opposed to the housing authority director, to make the appointments, would this be acceptable to you folks?

Mr. Berger: Can I make one statement about that? We did prepare alternate proposals on the structure of the housing authority security force, and they go beyond just the appointment question, but into other problems, particularly organizational problems. I think the chain of command problem is probably the most serious, more than the appointment problem. I think in practical terms appointments can be worked out, but the chain of command must remain firmly in my judgment in the hands of the city authorities, and, in my judgment, you cannot have two independent police officers in cities - two independent police departments in Connecticut municipalities.

Rep. Tudan: Now, I understand you to say you have drafted up another bill on this?

Mr. Berger: That's right. Sen. Lieberman received a copy. I will make available copies to the entire committee.

Sen. Tudan: Why don't you do that, and make a reference to 7176, and send it along to us, Mr. Berger.

Mr. Berger: Certainly, will do.