

Act Number	Session	Bill Number	Total Number of Committee Pages	Total Number of House Pages	Total Number of Senate Pages
PA 71-45		6215	2	1	2
<u>Committee Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Labor & Public Employees 51-52</i> 				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 778(<i>consent</i>) 	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 763- 764

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

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

Wednesday, March 17, 1971

5.

Tabled for the Calendar.

EFH

THE CLERK:

BUSINESS ON THE CALENDAR for Wednesday, March 17, 1971.

Consent Calendar.

RONALD A. SARASIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 48, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the Bills on the Consent Calendar, being Calendar No. 90, H.B. No. 5856, File No. 81, and Calendar No. 91, substitute for H.B. No. 6215, File No. 80, and further pursuant to our rules, Mr. Speaker, or shall I wait until these are adopted.

MR. SPEAKER:

The gentlemen from the 95th has properly moved in accordance with our Rules the adoption, acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the two Bills which are double-starred on the Consent Calendar. Is there individual objection? Hearing none, the question is on acceptance and passage. All those in favor indicate by saying "aye". Those opposed. Bills are passed.

RONALD A. SARASIN:

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 48, I move that Calendar No. 109, S.B. No. 0621, an Act concerning the penalty for escape from custody, File No. 42, be placed on the Consent Calendar.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there objection to placing this item on the Consent Calendar? Hearing no individual objection, so ordered.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1971

VOL. 14

PART 2

474-956

March 31, 1971

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No. 80. Favorable Report Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations. Substitute H.B. 6215 An Act Concerning Minimum Wages and Cooperation Between the State Labor Department and the United States Labor Department.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

SENATOR SMITH:

Mr. President this bill is simply corrective legislation. Recommended by the Attorney General's Office in the wake of our Fairfield County Superior Court ruling back in November of 1970. Which ruling has had the effect of hampering enforcement of minimum wage laws in the state of Connecticut. Passage of the bill would insure that all employees in this state whether they presently come under federal minimum wage control or state jurisdiction will enjoy minimum wage and overtime jurisdiction of the State Labor Department. The Federal law provides that where state minimum wage is greater than the federal rate the state in cooperation with the federal government shall have jurisdiction to uniformly administer its greater rate. Section 1, redefines the minimum wage by making it the greater of the two. And is \$1.60 and two one-half of 1% rounded to the nearest whole cent more than the federal minimum wage. Now any increase in the federal rate

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will cause the state rate to be increased by the indicated formula.

THE CHAIR:

Any further remarks? If not the question is on passage of the bill. All those in favor indicate by saying aye. AYE. Opposed? The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 118, File No. 69 Favorable report Joint Standing Committee on The Environment. Substitute H.B. No. 6251 An Act Concerning The Powers of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Preserving Tidal Wetlands.

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 will authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture or any of his agents to go upon the premises or any private premises in regard to mapping of the tidal wetlands. They can't possibly do the job that they were commissioned to do in mapping these wetlands unless they are given this authority. In some instances there is a question as to who owns these lands. And it has been very difficult to resolve. So they need this kind of authority. To go on any private lands.

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LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

FRIDAY - 1:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 19, 1971

K. Kenny:

At present, our Restaurant Association in Connecticut is very proud of its record in cooperating with the Federal and State agencies in training disadvantaged youth. Any increase of the minimum wage could very well price us out of this very worthwhile endeavor. I think the Committee is very familiar with the work that we have been doing with the disadvantaged youth throughout the State.

There is one item I would like to mention and that is, in Dunn and Bradstreet, we in the restaurant industry are rated as a very marginal industry and, I think, if the Committee is thinking of raising the minimum wage, it should certainly take into consideration the peculiar difficulties of our industry. We are one of the largest tax payers in the State through the direct process of the sales tax, cigarette tax, liquor tax, etc. So, that any loss in our business would be a direct reflection on a loss of income tax-wise to the State. Thank you.

The Restaurant Association would like to be in favor of both of these bills, H. B. 6288 (Rep. Sweeney of the 60th) AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM FAIR WAGE DEFINED, H. B. 6215 (Rep. Sweeney of the 60th) AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM WAGE LAW, one of which has to do with establishing a learner's rate of 500 hours for the wholesale, retail and service industries. At present, the restaurant industry is not included in this learner's rate, which is presumably used more in the manufacturing industry. We would be thankful for any inclusion of the restaurant industry in this particular learner's group. This would allow us to train individuals to come into the business and develop with the business and eventually, possibly, become chefs in our business.

The other bill, H. B. 6215, has to do with an increase in the gratuity allowance. In the past when the minimum wage has been increased, the Legislature has - because of the peculiarities of our industry - increased this gratuity allowance. Presently, in Congress, the gratuity allowance is 50%. We would appreciate the Committee to allow us 50% gratuity allowance on the minimum wage. Thank you.

D. Christie:

My name is Donald Christie, Fairfield, Connecticut. I am a Howard Johnson licensee operator and I would like to speak representing the Fairfield County Restaurant Guild. I am opposed to S. B. 226 (Sen. Smith of the 2nd) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM WAGE, raising the minimum wage. At

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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D. Christie: this troubled time, inflationary period and high joblessness, I think it would be an undue hardship on, at least, our industry to force us to raise prices when we are trying as hard as we can to maintain the number of customers we have had.

I would also like to speak in favor of H. B. 6215 (Rep. Sweeney of the 60th) AN ACT CONCERNING MINIMUM WAGE LAW, raising the gratuity allowance. Presently, the waitresses, who are generally not the major bread-winner - they are secondary bread-winners - are taking home a great deal of money from gratuities in comparison to the primary bread-winners in our kitchens and this does put it out of whack as far as the operator is concerned.

G. Jacobian: Mr. Chairman. My name is Gary Jacobian and I am President of the Connecticut Laundries and Cleaners Association. I am speaking in opposition to S. B. 226 (Sen. Smith of the 2nd) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM WAGE. I would like to state that the economics of the laundry and dry cleaning industry will not allow the price increase, which would be necessitated if we were forced to comply with S. B. 226 as presently stated.

One reason for our difficulty is the wide-spread use of the permanent press or miracle fabrics, which makes our service a luxury rather than a necessity. As an industry, we are faced with decreasing dollar volume and decreasing poundage of work. This condition does not favor a price increase. Due to the unique nature of our industry in that our gross payroll is over 50% of our gross Volume, an increase of over 50% in the minimum wage would necessitate an increase of over 25% in the cost of our service. In a time of inflation and serious unemployment in our State, I, as a businessman, do not relish the thought of having to pass on the cost of this increase to the consumer.

And, as a third point, I would like to say that this bill will serve to add to the mortality rate of the dry cleaning and laundry plants in our State which stands at over 35% in the last decade. When a plant is forced to close, quite the opposite economic results are achieved from what you desire. Our employees are, for the most part, unemployable in other industries. Consequently, will be on the unemployment and relief rolls of our State. My plant, presently, has 20% of its employees on lay-off and I have been told that this is typical of the labor pattern of our industry.