

Total Number of Committee Pages	Total Number of House Pages	Total Number of Senate Pages			
PA 71-551		701	5	1	1
Public Personnel and Military Affairs. 9-13				<u>House Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4964(Consent) 	<u>Senate Pages:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2654(Consent)

H-118

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

**VOL. 14
PART 11
4831-5162**

Saturday, June 5, 1971

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Calendar no. 1433 - Substitute for Senate Bill 0701 - An Act Concerning Credit Allowances to Veterans in Examinations. File 1405

Calendar no. 1434 - Senate Bill 0810 - An Act to Exclude Certain Supervisory and Administrative Personnel from Training Requirements. File 1308.

Calendar no. 1440 - Substitute for Senate Bill 1055 - An Act Concerning Federal Electors. File 1399.

Calendar no. 1446 - Senate Bill 1553 - An Act Requiring All Agency Heads to Promptly Notify the Auditors of Public Accounts and the State Comptroller of any Irregular or Questionable Handling of State Funds. File 1403.

Calendar no. 1447 - Substitute for Senate Bill 1564 - An Act Concerning Personnel Regulations. File 1416.

Calendar no. 1450 - Substitute for Senate Bill 1624 - An Act Authorizing the State Board of Fisheries and Game to Transfer Property Under Its Control Situated in Coventry. File 1367.

Calendar no. 1451 - Senate Bill 1749 - An Act Concerning Powers of Parking Authorities. File 1350.

Calendar no. 1454 - Senate Bill 1835 - An Act Validating Acts of the Board of Finance of the Town of Plymouth. File 1395.

I move adoption of these items, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Lest there further objections questions on Consents pass, all those in favor indicate by saying Aye. Opposed. Bill is passed.

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CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

SENATE

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

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

June 1, 1971

16.

Cal. 934, File 1277, H.B. 8506. An Act Including the State Treasurer As a Member Ex-Oficio of the Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

Cal. 958, File 1308, S.B. 810 An Act To Exclude Certain Supervisory and Administrative Personnel From Training Requirements.

Cal. 961, File 1327 Substitute for S.B. 967 An Act Concerning Unemployment Compensation Benefits Payable to Veterans.

Cal. 973, File 1148 Substitute for H.B. 8030 An Act Concerning the Employment of Minors in Dining Rooms.

Cal. 984, File 1171 Substitute for H.B. 5848 An Act Authorizing Towns to Compensate Their Clerks on a Salary Basis.

Cal. 992, File 1402 Substitute for S.B. 438 An Act Providing for an Adjustment in the Allowance of Retired Teachers.

Cal. 993, File 1399, Substitute for S.B. 1055 An Act Concerning Federal Electors.

Cal. 994, File 1392 S.B. 349, An Act Concerning the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Cal. 995, File 1405 Substitute S.B. 701, An Act Concerning Credit Allowances to Veterans in Examinations.

Cal. 996, File 1400, Substitute for S.B. 916 An Act Concerning Municipalities Borrowing in Anticipation of State and Federal Grants.

Cal. 998, File 1395 S.B. 1835 An Act Validating Acts of the Board of Finance of the Town of Plymouth.

Cal. 999, File 1394, Substitute S.B. 251 An Act Concerning State Aid for Construction of Additions to East 12 Ridge Junior and Senior High Schools in Ridgefield.

Cal. 1009, File 1200 Substitute for H.B. 8245 An Act Providing for the Sale of Surplus State Equipment to the Towns.

Cal. 1010, File 1206. An Act Concerning State Aid for Waste Volume Reduction Plants, Landfill Operations and Solid and Liquid Waste Disposal Facilities.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
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**PUBLIC
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Rep. Motto, Any questions of Mr. Galant? I thank you, and I would like to thank Ed for his brevity (laughter) James M. Danaher?

JM Danaher I'm Jim Danaher, bureau of Highways and of regards to bill #165* concerning purchase of retirement time for state service. I was out of service for practically 11 years, came to work for the state and that was not a very good salary at that time, but you gentlemen have taken care of that. In that period of a couple of years I could take to buy up my service time two years three months approximately. Contributions then would be eighty-two and I make that other service, so June of '60 which is a period of 13 years, so by this bill I paid interest for 10 years which some people have not been doing. If the way it was made the cutoff point after a certain number of years I would not have any objections, but some people get more than the rest of us where those of us who looked ahead who have drawn quite a bit of interest. Regarding announcements for examinations it says an equal opportunity employer, so I think some people get into this phase of the service, say I'm in this service, everybody should. BILL 161*

Rep. Motto, Are there any questions of Mr. Danaher? Thank you again. Justin Alricini?

Justin Ricini, Justin Recini, President, AFCME. I am here to speak on bill introduced by able Senator Cuttillo, 701 which pertains to the purpose of hazardous occupations to include any employee engaged in the care and treatment of persons afflicted with a mental disorder or disease or any employee in maintaining the state highways or airports or any correction officer of the department of children and youth services. I work at the Conn Schl for Boys and this is supposed to be a school for children - we have boys there about 6-4, 6-3 weigh about 200 pounds and we practically live with these boys. and actually sometimes we have 20 or 23 boys, and knowing boys who are mentally disturbed they have fights and everything else. We have to break them up as these boys might get hurt. We assume the responsibility of living with these boys, containing them to a certain extent, and because we have to work on a one to one basis, but we try to do our job. I do not think that these people work there long live up to 20 years retirement as most of them get out on hypertension before 10 or 14 years. It really is a hazardous job at the Conn. School for boys. I am highly in favor of the bill 701.

? How many boys are in the school?

J. Ricini, Off hand I could not tell you. In our local we have 75. As far as the whole school is concerned I cannot tell you. Correction officers we about 90. We work with the boys on a 7 hour shift, with 24 hour coverage.

Rep. Motto, Are there any other questions? Thank you very much. Senator Mondani please?

Sen. Mondani, Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am here in regards to SB 230, which was drafted and it has an oversight in the draftsmanship and there is another bill that will be coming along on this same topic, and the purpose is to grant credit in the longevity system when the state employee retirement system will allow the employee to buy in to the system for service other than state of Connecticut service. This one is limited only to war service - veteran service. Another bill be coming up and such a hearing on that general topic, I would like to alert you to it, which would permit state employees if he has purchased in and buys credit in the retirement system, where he is permitted to, if he does, this will also be credited to his longevity type bonus.

Sen. Mondani , Right now it is my understanding that he gets credit on retirement
cont'd but he doesn't when its computed towards longevity. I would
like to call your attention to this , and the other bill will be
coming out and there will be a hearing on it.

Rep.Motto, Thank you Senator. Is Mr. Singleton here?

James Shingleton, Ladies and gentlemen, my name is James Shingleton, I am the legislative director Conn. Employees Council 16, American Federation state Council & municipal employees. Like Mr. Gallant and Dr. Moore I am not going to speak in great detail on any particular bill this morning, altho I would like to read off the bills that we of chapter 16 are vitally interested in and we also will present a written summation of our bills and the bills that we support or do not support. We support HB 6509, HB 5727, 5633, 5907, 5908, 5632, 5913, 5915, 6397, 6392, SB305, SB 701, HB 5112, and HB 6392. I would like to speak on this because this is something that is a system that requires employees that have retired after many years of service, to wait a long period of time for any adjustment in their retirement salary, and the initial adjustment is not made for 3 years, and if you will look at the cost of living increase over the past 3 years you will see that there has been a tremendous deterioration of the monies the employee retired 3 years ago would receive in this retirement salary. This bill would adjust the retirement salary on an annual basis, based on the cost of living which is published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and would be in keeping with the annual budgets that were just recently adopted, or will be adopted by this session. The monies for retirement then would be on an annual basis along with the other bill that the state Treasurer has supported to some degree, bringing the retirement salary into an actuary sound program and so that retirees of the state of Connecticut will not have to worry about what is going to happen 10 or 20 years from now about their retirement salary. I also would like to speak on HB5633, which is the retirement for employees, male employees at age 50 . We for many years feel that injustice was done in allowing retirement for women 5 yeears earlier than any man. Certainly the study that Martin Seal Co just did that showed that there are far fewer men that are eligible to retire by the time they are age 55. Most of them have already gott3n out on disability retirement because for some reason or other the men seem to the weaker sex when it comes to working a long long life, so urgently we feel that the injustice should be corrected, that men should be able to retire the same age as women. Thank you for your time, and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Rep.Motto, Are there any questions of Mr. Shingleton? Thank you sir. The next is Mr. Larson, then Mr. Ferrucci, then Miss D.Donno and then R. Stevens and R. Tacey.

R. Larson, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Robert Larsen, Secretary-Treasurer of local 1252 AFLCIO at the Conn. School for boys. I strongly urge the passing of the SB 701, 20 year retirement for officers of the department of children and youth services because of the fact that as Mr. Ricini has stated we do work with the boys constantly and we are under the hypertension and tension of the boys. I do not want to expound too much on what Mr. Ricini has said, but I do want to clarify the cept of corrections has the 20 year retirement and I sincerely believe it to be fair and equal to all the dept of children and youth services also should have the 20 year retirement. Thank you very much

Nept.Motto, Michael Ferrucci?

Michael Ferrucci, Members of the committee, my name is Michael Ferrucci, President of the council 16 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. I think brevity is the order of the day, and I will keep to that point. I see some smiles, altho as my brother Singleton has indicated we will follow up with documented testimony on the legislative package. I do want to point out one or two situations and one or two specific bills. I know that we will have some speakers who will speak to them from the various agencies. I would like to point out that SB 701 makes reference to employees that are - that employees under this act would be those working under hazardous fields of occupation, and it relates to employees in the mental health area. The bill should also - the intent of this bill was also to include employees who work in the area of mental retardation, certainly we would not be seeking this kind of legislation for the members of the employees of who in psychiatric care, but also extend it to patient care employees that work in our 5 mental retardation centers, so the intent of that bill was clearly to include mental retardation employees. I would also like to speak briefly in regard to SB 305, which is intended to grant a 20 year retirement benefits, age 47, altho I would certainly like to see it amended to read 20 years, regardless of age, to all these 20 yr bills, because I agree with them. Representative Mortenson indicated that a 20 year bill was not true unless after 20 years of service an employee can retire regardless of his age. In SB 305, which relates to the Dept of transportation maintenance employees, the bill is specifically targeted to those employees who work in the maintenance bureau of the dept of transportation, and by that it is intended to cover those employees that work almost or rather exclusively in the field. It is not aimed at the administrative officers of the dept of transportation, but rather to those guys who are out on the roadway whether they are working on snow and ice removal or whether they are electricians or whether they are bridge repair people and special services people, but those employees who work exclusively on Conn. roadways, and the justification, it seems that the 20 year retirement, one of the prerequisites anyway is that the job must be of hazardous nature, and certainly I can vouch for the employees in the maintenance field in the dept of transportation for in my state job capacity I am working in the state supervision. I am the safety advisor and I am very close to the employees as relates to their job of safety, and over a 6 year period of time while engaged in this occupation I have personally witnessed and had access to statistics to prove without any shadow of a doubt, unfortunately that these boys work under severe exposure and tremendous hazards on the year around basis. Immediately people think that when talking about highway maintainers that we are referring to possibly the winter season. Of course it does not exclude any other season. For the time being, and I think this is an interesting point - employees that are engaged in the winter policy in state of Connecticut in the removal of snow and ice, work under a very unique system which is not in effect in any other state in this union, or in a municipality to my knowledge, whereby there is a standby requirement which makes it necessary for them to be available on a 24 hour basis for a 5 month period beginning on November 1, and terminating on April 15. For this 5 month period these employees must be available around the clock, every day whether its Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and there are some big holidays. I am pointing that out because winters in Conn. - well New England weather is difficult to predict. The average hours that a maintainer works on his overtime

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Mr. Chairman, is this germaine?

Mr. Ferrucci, I think it is Mr. Chairman

Rep. Motto, Well Mr. Ferrucci, you did say at the beginning that you were going to be very brief

Mr. Ferrucci, In that I would not speak on all the bills,

Rep. Motto, We are all sympathetic with what you are saying, and I am sure that you had your tussle on this with the Governor already, so would you please be brief.

Mr. Ferrucci, I will be brief, and I hope to show that this is a very germane point that I am trying to make. What I am saying that is during this 5 month period you have 3 situations - you have a man that performs his normal workday which consists of 7 hours and that usually takes up around, in terms of the 5 months, approximately 100 days. He also works an average of average of 300 hours plus of overtime during that period and if you break that down into a 7 hour period you would get another 45 days. And then there are those hours of standby which I think are critical because what they bring upon the employee is a tremendous sacrifice to both he and his family, and in effect is time given to the state of Conn. Why I say that is because (a) its right now a condition of employment that he must be available, and being that as it may it restricts the activity of each and every one of these employees so that he may not effectively use his time away from his place of employment. Therefore I tie it into being very much part of the employees career that even tho he is not working in these period of time, his time is really committed to his employer. If you were to break down these hours roughly, there are some 2600 hours that he must stand by normally, excluding the regular hours and the hours that he works. This would add up to another 300 plus days, and the point that I am making is that the average year of a maintenance worker who is performing on the winter maintenance force is actually working 2 years for every one year that he is employed, and I think that this does bring out the point that is germane that while

(change of machine)

Marie D. Donno, President local 398 AFSCME when these are unwanted by anyone else we care. When they are considered unmanageable, somehow we manage. When they are so depressed they want to do away with themselves we are their preventative. There is not an employee who has any length of service in the mental hospital that at one time or another has not been spit at, kicked, flushed or otherwise physically abused in the performance of his or her duties. I could not even begin to tell you of the verbal abuse that employees are constantly exposed to. I am talking of employees like myself that are responsible for feeding these patients, strapping them, giving them their medication. When we react to a violent patient the first thing that comes into our mind is 'everything going to be OK' or are we going to be subjected to an investigation. Don't say we should be prepared for .NY SITUATION because these are human emotions that we must contend with. We are in more danger than the men in the correction dept because we have to handle the persons that the people in the corrections dept cannot handle. Many times, with only one or two aides on a ward with 30 or 40 patients. Part of our day, at any given moment we can be hit with a chair a piece of glass or a knife, or even knocked to the floor causing serious head injuries. I ask you, could you stand 25 years of this? or even the 20 years we are seeking for. How long can anyone individual be asked to carry the load, how long should we consider too long? I can answer these questions because I am one of these people. Retirement after 20 yrs of service at the age of 47 as the state correction dept now enjoy would be a step in the right direction. Thank you

HB5913

Rep. Motto, what was the number of that bill?

Miss Dunno HB5913 The one I am speaking on right now is 5913
There are two of them, one for the psychiatric aides and one for security
treatment aides

Rep. Motto, Thank you. R.L.Stevens?

R.L.Stevens, Thank you Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the committee.
My name is Richard Stevens, I live in Stonington Conn. and what I would
like to talk about is bill 6063. The state of Connecticut has an excellent
retirement system I believe, but there are some inequalities in it and
this is one of the bills which will help to straighten out some of these
things. I speak on this bill on two views, first as a personal view, as
an engineer for the bureau of highways. There are other engineers like myself
who have graduated and we have come from other states, and we have come to
work here in Connecticut and depending what state we came from, we are able
to either buy back our time, or we would not be able to buy back. In my
own case I worked in a neighboring state which does not have reciprocity
with the state of Connecticut, so as a result the couple of years that I have
worked as an engineer in another state, I am not able now to acquire that
under our present statutes. There are other men who have worked in other
states, just the same as I did, but because they happened to be in a state
where they had reciprocity with the state of Connecticut, they as a result
were able to buy back this time. Its a minor time, usually 2 or 3 years
at the most, however there is a discrimination which the individual himself
has no control over, because it actually the statute in the state they
work in control, so this is the personalend of it that I speak of for my
own sake. I would like to see this bill passed, not only for me, but for
the other people it does take away some of the inequalities, and as I
noticed today in previous bills that have been discussed here either per-
sonally or in other ways, we are trying to eliminate this inequality, it
doesn't matter if it is the AFof L or the CSEA or what they are. Now also
from another point of view, there are many people who are in the service
I know like down in the New London area, they are engineers, doctors,
dentists, who if we could only make it a little more attractive to have
them come to the state, if they could buy back a small amount of their
time that they now cannot do, this would help create an interest so that
they would come to the state of Connecticut and become employed with us,
and this would be beneficial to us, so actually as far as this bill you
will notice there is limitations in it, its a maximum of 5 years that
any man can buy back and there is also limitation as to the amount of
service that hehas to have. I would like very much for you to look into
this bill. I think it is a good bill. It has much that can be said on
the positive side. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Rep.Motto, Thank you Mr. Stevens. Robert R. Casey?

Robert R. Casey, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Robert R. Casey
I am the Personnel administrator of the department of mental health. At
the risk of aleinating any of my friends in the audience, I have been asked
by the Commissioner to appear in opposition to House Bills 5913, 5915,
and SB 701. These bills provide for early retirement for people in mental
health occupations and others as well. I oppose these bills, not because
they would prematurely lose for us the valued services of employees, nor
because the cost which is implicit in this early retirement, nor because of