

HB5574

PA 592

1971

Public Personnel & Military Affairs 118-119

House 4650-4652

Senate 3091

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC  
PERSONNEL  
AND  
MILITARY  
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Mr. Cone, spiral, this proposal is equitable. Without it many of our teachers may cont'd have to seek relief. We are sure moreover that the representatives of the retired teachers here today will wish to elaborate on this concept, and they have already done so. However we would like to record our hearty endorsement of this measure for the well being of our retired colleagues.

SB 231, HB 5580 and HB 5301 AN ACT ENABLING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PAY FOR TEACHERS' RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS, to enable local boards of education to pay the teacher's retirement contributions. We would like to support the concept of these bills. This is a permissive bill and would permit a local board of education if it so elected to pay all or part of the retirement contribution, up to 6%, now paid by the teacher. We have had some boards evidence interest in this proposal, and we believe that such a provision would be an inducement to preclude teacher migration and provide a more stable teaching force. This bill bears no cost to the state, it is purely permissive on the local level, and we hope your committee will give it a favorable report.

SB 227 and HB 5581 AN ACT CONCERNING DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS. This is to provide an improved disability retirement allowance to teachers permanently and totally disabled. Under the present law, a teacher with 10 years of service who is under age 65 may qualify for a disability if he becomes permanently incapable of rendering satisfactory service. The formulae is calculated at the rate of 1.54% of each year of service. First this bill changes the concept that one needs ten years to qualify for a disability retirement. Either a person is disabled or he is not, and whether he has taught 10 years offers no proof of disability. A young teacher afflicted with a disabling ailment after his 1st year of teaching is not less deserving than if he has taught 10 years. Second, this bill provides that the allowance be based on 50% of the best 3 years salary. Qualifications for disability remains the same however, the retirement allowance would be reduced by any wages, hourly rates, fees or royalties earned by the member. We feel that it is time to recognize the lack of earning power through a disability and to provide an adequate provision should such a disaster strike. The cost as in terms of the total program would not be significant and we urge the committee to give this concept serious consideration.

SB 232 and HB 5583 AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT FOR TEACHING SERVICE IN MILITARY DEPENDENT SCHOOLS. This is to provide credit for teaching service in all military dependent schools. Presently these statutes limit such service to the United States or its territories. We propose this as a technical amendment in order that we may permit the act to follow the flag of our country.

SB 235 and HB 5573 AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHERS' RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE. This is to provide for Connecticut teachers entering the military service, fully paid up retirement service credit equal to the period of service upon their return to the teaching profession in Conn.

SB 233 and HB 5574 IS AN ACT CONCERNING THE BENEFITS PAID TO THE SPOUSE OF THE TEACHER WHO DIES BEFORE RETIREMENT. This is to provide a retirement allowance to the spouse of the teacher eligible to retire who dies before designating a co-participant. The current provisions of the

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Mr. Cone, retirement system allows a teacher who is eligible to retire and remains cont'd in service to elect a co-participant and provide an allowance to the spouse in the event he dies prior to retirement. If a teacher does not elect this option, and dies while in service, his widow is entitled to receive the survivorship benefit, \$125 per month, or the amount he has contributed to the fund. This bill provides for those who failed to indicate their choice of the co-participant option and, in the absence of such election makes the provision automatic. This does not mean that some teachers are gaining in advantage, it merely provides all with the same protection.

SB 268 and HB 5587 AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED DEATH BENEFITS IN THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. This is to increase the death benefits in the teachers retirement system. These two bills would increase the benefits payable following a member to his or her survivors and dependents as follows, widows and mothers insurance benefits would be increased from \$125 to \$200 per month. Children's insurance benefits which are now \$125 per month for one child or for more than one child, \$80 per child plus an equal share of an additional \$40, per month would be increased to \$200 per child. Payments to children are subject to the maximum family benefit which would be increased to \$300. to \$600. From data on survivorship cases to date we estimate the cost increase which this proposal would entail during the next fiscal period for cases now on the benefit rolls would be some \$150,000.

SB 236 and HB 5577 AN ACT CONCERNING VESTED RIGHTS IN THE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM. This is to permit vested rights for teachers between their 60th and 65th birthdays. This bill extends the privilege of vesting to those teachers who complete their 10th year of service after obtaining the age of 60, the cut off age for vesting at this time. It would allow them to vest and begin receiving an allowance at age 65. We have a provision which allows retirement at age 65 with 15 years of service, and a provision of vesting beginning at age of 60 with 10 years of service. Unfortunately there is a gap of 5 years between age and 65 where teachers with less than 20 years of service are not allowed any type of retirement provision. This bill would correct this problem.

SB 228 and HB 5572. AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE TEACHERS retirement board. This act would merely add two additional teachers to the teacher retirement board and calls for no appropriation and is most timely. With the pressures that may very well accrue in the operation of this fund, it is imperative that the elected representatives of the teachers have a more meaningful voice in the fate of their system than may well eventuate under the present statute.

SB 438 AN ACT CONCERNING ANNUAL RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES. The statement of purpose is to provide that the retirement allowance for teachers who retired on or before June 30, 1967, be recalculated on a basis equivalent to that for teachers who retired subsequent to said date. The association of retired teachers of Connecticut, and the Connecticut education association are supporting SB 438, which would permit the retirement allowance for teachers retired on or before July 30, 1967 to be recalculated on the same basis as was provided by the 1967 General Assembly for those who retired after that. Before 1967, the base was the average salary for the last 5 years of teaching with an allowance of 2% for each of the first 20 years of service and 1% for each year thereafter, to a maximum of 70%. You have already heard from many of our retired comrades who are here today to support this measure and we urge your serious consideration of this measure. Thank you Mr. Chairman attention.

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a hopeless addict to heroin without any proper resources of help within this area around Hartford. It will be a great relief for me to be able to report to her that the State of Connecticut is conscious of these problems and that we are taking steps here to deal with the situation as quickly and as humanely as we can.

JOSEPH GORMLEY, 142nd District:

Mr. Speaker, I will favor any bill that helps the veterans of the present war or any past wars. This bill is needed and I hope it passes unanimously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is on acceptance and passage, all those....

VICTOR TUDAN, 42nd District:

Mr. Speaker, I agree completely, 100% with the remarks made by Rep. Sarasin. I think it is tragic that the federal government just doesn't live up to their responsibilities and I think it is a tribute to us that we are going to do something about this problem now.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. All those in favor indicate by saying aye, opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1104, Substitute for House Bill No. 5574.

An Act Concerning the Benefits Paid to the Spouse of a Teacher Who Dies Before Retirement.

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NICHOLAS MOTTO, 3rd District:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

NICHOLAS MOTTO, 3rd District:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this bill will reduce or possibly eliminate the number of private bills that have been presented to the Public Personnel and Military Affairs Committee. The people who have put forth a presentation to our Committee because of a person who had died. This bill will provide three options for the spouse or the heirs of a teacher who dies but is eligible for retirement. One, it allows that spouse to be co-participant and receive a monthly allowance of half of what the spouse would have received. It allows an option of a lump sum payment of all the money that was contributed by the teacher or the third option, is that if the survivor could take survivorship if young children are involved. This bill eliminates many of the problems of teachers who do not make an option before retirement. I urge the passage of this bill.

SIDNEY SHERER, 159th District:

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly agree with Rep. Motto, this bill has been a long time coming and I feel that it is a service to those people who are most affected, those are

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the widows and the children of the teachers who have died within the course of their service and, of course, many years have elapsed and many inequities have been placed upon these people who have survived where they weren't able to fend for themselves, where their amount of pension was nill, where they were forced to live on \$125 a month, which we realize today is an impossibility. It has been a long time in coming, it is a good bill and I would support it and I would ask everybody else to, too.

RICHARD EDWARDS, 155th District:

Mr. Speaker, I rise also to support this bill. When the subject was first introduced I was quite shocked to find that a teacher could serve his proper time, could have earned his retirement and through a technicality his family be deprived of it. I think it is an excellent bill and I fully support it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there further remarks? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying aye, opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Page 14, Calendar No. 1121, Substitute for House Bill No. 5204, An Act Concerning the Redistricting of Connecticut's Congressional Districts, file 1218.

ROLLIN METTLER, 96th District:

Mr. Speaker, having failed to get this matter on the



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Cal. 1191 File 1374 Substitute for H.B. 7041 An Act Concerning the Use and Operation of Snowmobiles.

Cal. 1193, File 1387, Substitute for H.B. 7483 An Act Concerning the Husband And Wife Retirement Income Option Under the Probate Court Retirement System.

Cal. 1194, File 1378 Substitute for H.B. 8330 An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Wequetequock Fire District in the Town of Stonington.

Cal. 1195, File 1293 Substitute for H.B. 8541 An Act Providing a Bonus for Veterans Who Were Eligible But Did Not Receive a Bonus for Service in World War II or the Korean War.

Page 10, Cal. 1206 File 1389 H.B. 7484 An Act Concerning Disability Retirement for a Judge of Probate.

Cal. 1207, File 1383 Substitute H.B. 7490 An Act Concerning the Definition of Average Final Compensation for a Judge of Probate

Page 11, Cal. 1209, File 1236, Substitute for H.B. 5574 An Act Concerning the Benefits Paid to the Spouse of a Teacher Who Dies Before Retirement.

Page 12, Cal. 1219, File 1187 H.B. 8712 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Drug Dependency Unit at Veterans' Home and Hospital.

Cal. 1222, File 1422 Substitute for H.B. 8343 An Act Concerning Mandatory Refusal of Liquor Permits.

Cal. 1223, File 983, Substitute for H.B. 8359 An Act Concerning the Creation of a Commission on Compensation for Elected State Officials.

Page 13, Cal. 1225, File 1435 Substitute for H.B. 8798 An Act Concerning Public Hearings on Proposed Layout of State Highways.

Cal. 1229, S.B. 1830 An Act Concerning Participation of Hospitals in the Health And Educational Facilities Authority Act.

Page 14, H.B. 5491, File 916 An Act Granting Payment of the World War II Veterans' Bonus to Edward david Wellins.

Cal. 1233, File 777 H.B. 5672 An Act Granting Payment of the Korean War Veterans' Bonus to John P. Belansky, Jr.