

HB 6538

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Education 561-562, 983

House 4904-4905

Senate 3093

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

EDUCATION

**PART 2
331-675**

1971

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 23, 1971

Rep. Klebanoff: speak you come over to this microphone here, state your name and if you are representing any college, or group please state that name also. We will now begin this morning's hearing. Before I do so, I would just like to briefly introduce to you the members of the Education Committee who are here this morning. I am Howard Klebanoff, House Chairman of the Education. On my left here is Representative Della Vecchia, the House vice-chairman of the Education Committee, on my right is Representative McNellis, the House Clerk of the Education Committee. Next to him is Representative Truex, and over here is Representative Stolberg, who you just heard. There are a few more seats behind here, if any of you standing there would like to come down and try to take the seats. First speaker we will call this morning is George Steinmetz.

Mr. Steinmetz: Mr. Chairman, members of the Education Committee. I have given a copy of my statement to the clerk already, and I'm going to read it, it will only take me two minutes, and I think it would take me longer to summarize it. My name is George E. Steinmetz and I am executive director of the Commission on Aid to Higher Education. The Commission requests your support of HB 6538 (Rep. Klebanoff-Sen. Blake) AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSION ON AID TO HIGHER EDUCATION, which provides for the addition to the Commission's statutory authority of the power to enter into contracts or other arrangements to carry out its statutory functions. The Commission's contracting authority is now limited to the type of contract by which individuals or organizations are hired to do work for the Commission. If another organization wants the Commission to do some work for it, we do not have the authority to contract for such work. This was discovered last year when we were requested to assist the U.S. Office of Education by reviewing and correcting annual inventory reports filed by collegiate institutions. The arrangements for doing this work involved making a contract with a private organization, Higher Education Facilities, Inc., which is acting as an agent of the U.S. office of Education in dealing with State Commissions doing this work. Assistant Attorney General F. Michael Ahern, who informed me that this Commission lacked authority to contract with that private organization advised me to seek such authority. I contacted Attorney Josephine M. Brown of the State's

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TUESDAY

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Mr. Steinmetz: Legislative Commissioner's Office and she prepared the bill which you now have before you. It appears the U.S. Office of Education will continue to have State Commissions assist in the review of facility inventory information and will make arrangements similar to those used this year. It is to our advantage to participate in these reviews, because we administer Federal grant programs providing assistance for the construction of buildings at institutions of higher education. We need accurate and up-to-date information to judge facilities needs properly and this review process helps to get it. Since we will probably be asked to contract for the review in coming years and since we may very well be asked to do other work covered by our statutory functions, we hope that you will report favorably on HB6538.

Rep. Klebanoff: Thank you Mr. Steinmetz. Any questions? Dr. Ross.

Dr. Ross: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am Maurice J. Ross, associate commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education representing Dr. William M. Sanders, Secretary, Board of Trustees of State Technical Colleges. I urge the Committee to report favorably HB 5756 (Rep. Klebanoff) AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGES. HB 5756, if approved, would authorize the issuance of bonds for the construction of new buildings for the Hartford State Technical College in the amount of \$11,270,000 and the construction of an addition to Waterbury State Technical College in the amount of \$3,416,641. The present Hartford Technical College is located on a 17 acre site that includes the A.I. Prince Regional Vocational Technical School. The very limited size of the present site will not provide any sorely needed expansion for either institution. Therefore, it is proposed to relocate the Hartford State Technical College on a new site identified and approved by the Commission for Higher Education and both Boards of Trustees. The new site will provide additional facilities required. The buildings of the college in its present location would be acquired and used by A.I. Prince Regional Vocational School. The addition to the Waterbury State Technical College is required to accommodate increased enrollments expected based upon the latest study made of the need for two year engineering technicians in Connecticut. The new addition will provide additional facilities for 240 students. Mr. Chairman, I like to also urge the Committee to

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Statements to be read into the record:

Statement of Executive Director of the Commission on Aid to Higher Education,
George E. Steinmetz.

My name is George E. Steinmetz and I am Executive Director of the Commission on Aid to Higher Education. The Commission requests your support of HB6538 which provides for the addition to the Commission's statutory authority of the power to enter into contracts or other arrangements to carry out its statutory functions.

The Commission's contracting authority is now limited to the type of contract by which individuals or organizations are hired to do work for the Commission. If another organization wants the Commission to do some work for it, we do not have the authority to contract for such work. This was discovered last year when we were requested to assist the U. S. Office of Education by reviewing and correcting annual inventory reports filed by collegiate institutions. The arrangements for doing this work involved making a contract with a private organization, Higher Education Facilities, Inc., which is acting as an agent of the U. S. Office of Education in dealing with State Commissions doing this work.

Assistant Attorney General F. Michael Ahern, who informed me that this Commission lacked authority to contract with that private organization, advised me to seek such authority. I contacted Attorney Josephine M. Brown of the State's Legislative Commissioner's Office and she prepared the Bill which you now have before you.

It appears that the U. S. Office of Education will continue to have State Commissions assist in the review of facility inventory information and will make arrangements similar to those used this year. It is to our advantage to participate in these reviews, because we administer Federal grant programs providing assistance for the construction of buildings at institutions of higher education. We need accurate and up-to date information to judge facilities needs properly and this review process helps to get it. Since we will probably be asked to contract for the review in coming years and since we may very well be asked to do other work covered by our statutory functions, we hope that you will report favorably on HB6538.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

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Opposed. In the opinion of the Chair, the "aye" have it. Passed. EFH

THE CLERK:

Page 17, Calendar No. 1325, H.B. No. 6538, an Act concerning the powers of the Commission on Aid to Higher Education.

THOMAS J. MCNELLIS:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark.

THOMAS J. MCNELLIS:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will allow the Commission on Aid to Higher Education to enter contracts to carry out its statutory functions. The United States Department of Education requires certain reports from institutions of higher education in each state. This department, the United States Department of Education, has been reviewing and compiling this data in their office in Washington. It has been taking them up to a year to get this data compiled, and now they've asked agencies, such as the Commission on Aid to Higher Education, in each state, to do this work for them, and these Commissions...these agencies, or the states they represent, would be paid for this work. It was felt that the Commission on Aid to Higher Education did not have the statutory authority to enter this type of agreement, and this Bill will give it this authority. I urge its passage.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the Bill.

GUIDO LAGROTTA:

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Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Bill. This is for the Commission on Aid to Higher Education, as you know, not the Commission on Higher Education, and much of these arrangements which are necessary, they need this power to make arrangements for a research project. This is a good Bill, and I urge its passage.

EFH

MR. SPEAKER:

Further remarks. If not, all those in favor indicate by saying "aye". Opposed. Passed.

THE CLERK:

On Page 18, second item, Calendar No. 1330, Substitute for H.B. No. 6723, an Act concerning a technical Amendment to the Planning and Zoning Statute with respect to hearings.

GEORGE W. HANNON, JR.:

Mr. Speaker, I don't see the gentleman who was going to bring the Bill out in the hall. I would, therefore, move it be passed temporarily.

MR. SPEAKER:

So ordered.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1332, H.B. No. 6982, an Act exempting the State and its political sub-divisions from the Fair Trade Act.

GEORGE W. HANNON, JR.:

Mr. Speaker, may Calendar No. 1332 be passed temporarily.

MR. SPEAKER:

So ordered.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1333, Substitute for H.B. No. 7048, an Act

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1252 , File 1478, H.B. 6538, An Act Concerning the Powers of the Commission on Aid to Higher Education.

Page 17, File 1256, File 1485, H.B. 6982 An Act Exempting the State and its Political Subdivisions from the Fair Trade Act.

1259, File 1454, Sub. H.B. 7596 An Act Concerning License Plates on Motorcycles.

Page 18, Cal. 1260, File 1488 Sub. H.B. 7712 An Act Concerning the Federal-Aid Urban System of Highways.

Page 19, Cal. 1268, File 1447, Sub. H.B. 9165 An Act Concerning Administrative Appeals.

Cal. 1270, File 1473, H.B. 9255, An Act Concerning Amending the Charter of Bacon Academy.

Page 21, Cal. 536, File 1195, Sub. S.B. 1679 An Act Concerning Claims Against the State.

Cal. 688, File 1008, Sub.S.B. 429, An Act Concerning the Retirement Salary of Certain Workmen's Compensation Commissioners.

Page 22, Cal. 705, File 1023, S.B. 1405 An Act Concerning the Creation of the Naugatuck Valley Industrial Development Distr.

Cal. 789, File 1122, Sub. S.B. 879 An Act Concerning Investigation of Rates of a Public Service Corporation By the Public Utilities Commission.

Cal. 813, File 1391, Sub. H.B. 6161 An Act Concerning the Establishment of Transit Districts by Vote of the Legislative Bodies of Municipalities Subject to the Approval of the Commissioner of Transportation.

Page 31, Cal. 881, File 1246, Sub. S.B. 0654 An Act Concerning the Authority of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to Make Regulations.

I believe thats it. I now move for suspension of the rules for consideration of all items that were not starred, or only single starred.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on suspension of the rules . Is there any objection? No objection. The rules are suspended. All the matters