

SB 1043

PA 657 (Vetoed)

1971

Corrections, Welfare, & Humane Inst 234, 239-242

House 5782-5784

Senate 2653

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**CORRECTIONS,
WELFARE
AND
HUMANE
INSTITUTIONS**

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**1971
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CORRECTIONS WELFARE AND HUMANE INSTITUTIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1971

JOHN B. CHAGNON PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators: Finney

Representatives: Colucci, Chagnon, Curtis, Coatsworth,
Pearson, Yacavone, Killington

JOHN B. CHAGNON, VICE CHAIRMAN: I am John B. Chagnon, Vice Chairman of the Corrections, Welfare and Humane Institutions Committee and I am calling the public session of this term to order. We have some people registered here who wish to speak. They will come up to this microphone here and if they will please identify themselves clearly and whom they represent for the benefit of our secretary and our records we will be about our business for the day. Thank you.

S. B. 855 - AN ACT CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES.

S. B. 939 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.

S. B. 1043 - AN ACT CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

H. B. 7046 - AN ACT CONCERNING PROVIDING FOR STATE AID FOR YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS.

H. B. 7373 - AN ACT CONCERNING MUCH NEEDED PRISON FACILITIES.

H. B. 7716 - AN ACT CONCERNING A VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICE CORPS.

H. B. 7719 - AN ACT CONCERNING WORK - RELEASE PROGRAMS FOR PRISON INMATES.

H. B. 7722 - AN ACT CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION IN ALL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: The first speaker that I have requested here is Mr. Laurence Sykes. Mr. Sykes?

LAURENCE SYKES, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CONTACT ** CONNECTICUT TALENT ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE: I am speaking here both in the capacity as the Associate Director and as an ex convict but one in particular who have come through who was released through a Special Educational Program through the Department of Corrections. I'd like to say that in reference to Contact that and in reference to Bill 1043 I feel that it is a valid bill. It is one that is certainly justified and necessary if we're thinking in terms of rehabilitation of exoffenders, etc. and if we're thinking in terms of cutting down the rate of recidivism for various reasons I think this bill is completely necessary and I'd like to read to you a few of the statistics which I've gotten from some Contact records and they aren't anywhere near

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: Any questions? Mr. Persempere?

DOMINIC A. PERSEMPERE, HEAD SERVICES TO STATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OUT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE: I am speaking in support of S. B. 1043. There have been many presentations before you, those that have urgency and those which can be considered ancillary in nature. Education in Corrections is not only supportive but urgent in the rehabilitative process. The State Library feels, therefore, the Department of Correction request for funding of the Correctional School District is urgent.

Educational programs within Correctional institutions are of the utmost urgency. In fact, if recidivism were to continue at the national average of 65% or better, our present correctional institutions could not and would not contain the tide of re-entry of former inmates to institutions by 1985.

As a member of the Ancillary team, and as a staff member of the Connecticut State Library, I have worked side by side with the Department of Correction in order to support educational and rehabilitation programs at institutions. Funds awarded to the Department of Correction through Title IVA of the Library Services construction Act have been limited, but used to great advantage in a coordinated effort with a department which recognized the value of education from its birth in 1968. However, the time has come to shed the yoke of exposure to a defined support of a new vital program to restore Connecticut citizens who have wronged back to society: rehabilitated by an intensified program of reclamation conducted by dedicated staff members and "on the line" teachers in correctional institutions.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me state here that back in 1966 when I was invited to tour Correctional facilities with the then Governor Dempsey's "State Jail Committee" we have come a long way from having 101 bibles on shelves with just one novel which was entitled "The Constant Nymph". On a recent tour which I would like to term Exodus Revisited, one can only marvel at the enthusiasm of those involved with educational responsibilities. The education people are truly dedicated, but they need resources and basic tools to aid an apathetic inmate to learn and who will become imbued with the interest shown in him to continue on his own.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, federal grants are interesting especially beginning by 1972 and on, and I would like to quote President Nixon's approach to Federal Aid Programs: "...Those (Federally funded) programs which have shown the greatest innovative potential for moving (activities in correction, health, libraries, etc.) — toward improved services — and quality ... will be given selective consideration ..." However, none of the States should consider Federal Aid Programs Ad Finitum into the future.

Thank you sir.

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: Thank you very much. Any questions? Beatrice M. is that State?

BEATRICE M. HART OF WETHERSFIELD: I'm speaking about H. B. 7048. Connecticut Women for Children is an organization of women concerned about the lack of adequate facilities and programs for troubled children in the State of Connecticut. As women of this state we feel we must express our concern and commitment to those changes designed to promote emotional wellbeing and healthy attitudes in these children. We are dedicated firmly to the proposition that if natural and original authorities of the child are unable to provide what we would term a warm environment of responsible concern for their children or in whatever degree the original authority is so unable to offer responsibility, then, the state must and is obliged to stand in loco parentis and must, in policy and in practice, provide for the type of environment so provided to him as has been best determined by child development authorities as to insure to this child the opportunity for the internalization of society's best moral and social values, as well as those other values that will provide for this child a rewarding kind of personal life. Connecticut Women for Children will subscribe to no less.

Nevertheless, at the present time we are faced by a two-horned dilemma; the dimension that must be acknowledged — this is a tight-fisted, economy motivated administration and that no matter how worthwhile the appropriation for youth services programs may be, the hard fact remains that the amount of money required to create and support the vitally needed extension of youth services is probably not going to be forth-coming.

Next year we hope /the picture will tell a different story; we will expect at that time the state's financial picture will be better; in this respect Connecticut Women for Children has supported at its hearing the graduated income tax, H. B. 5759. Also, by next year, we expect to have the grass roots strength among women in this state to demand a fair share of money for new and realistic programs that will deal adequately and properly with the enormous dimension of children's problems. Further, yesterday afternoon, as this was written, Monday, March 29, The Director of the Psychiatric Clinic for Children, Dr. Elias Marsh, submitted to the Governor a proposal for a Commission to be empowered by the Legislature to present to the Governor and the 1972 Legislature, a comprehensive program of services for children who are, or who are at risk of becoming emotionally disturbed mentally ill, mentally retarded, delinquent, dependent, neglected, or uncared for. Dr. Marsh has been long and commendably concerned by "the need to create a coordinated system of state services for children rather than the revalrous patchwork that is victimizing children now."

In other words, it has been acknowledged by responsible professionals in some of the departments that have divisions dealing with services to children that over-lapping cannot be eliminated, cooperative sharing of the available facilities cannot be realized, the comprehensive planning cannot take place for the total needs of the total child, that broad evaluation procedures cannot be established with the desirable consequence of ample Federal funding for children's services that exist with this stipulation — unless, at length, a more comprehensive child advocacy agency of services were erected employing the expertise in concert to insure the coordinated planning which all the professionals and non-professionals

BEATRICE M. HART OF WETHERSFIELD (CONT'D):

working within the area of children's needs and requirements can together provide. We would then be more assured that each program designed for the variety of children's needs would be the highest quality programs that the times and the combined expertise of child speciality advocates have to offer.

However, the other horn of the dilemma that must properly and justly be faced in this room today is that the Department of Children and Youth Services has one bill among all the rest that is considered by the Commissioner and by Connecticut Women for Children to be a present "must". This is H. B. 6533 or the Diagnostic and Intensive Treatment Clinic for hyperaggressive, volatile youth, who, finally and at long last, must be provided the special area with the sensitive handling that his situation demands. They are a considerably greater threat to society and themselves as well as any improperly designed institution than their numbers would indicate --- five to fifteen per cent of the total institutional population.

To any citizen whose life is in any way directed by some degree of moral regards, the picture of these boys who are reacting with reasonable cause to the hostility of their early immediate environment -- locked up like animals, watching television all day and reading funny books -- is not a pretty or tolerable picture. The Commissioner would also ask this committee and Connecticut for Children strongly concurs that this committee provide this department a modest extra \$100,000. This money will be spent to hire services from private agencies in and out of state that will provide the small group home environment for children who are ready to leave the institution and have no adequate home to which to go. This is a reasonable request and in view of its modesty and the rewards of reconstruction that it will bring to some kids who are ready for this experience, this committee will not, we pray, deny it. Thank you.

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: Any questions? That is the complete list. Is there anybody else who would like to speak? Could I have Representative Sadowski first -- he has to -- he asked if you permit it. I chastised him for being late --

REPRESENTATIVE ED GADELSKI: I'm speaking in behalf Bill 7046. The reason that I do is because I'm sure on the basis of my own personal experience through INAUDIBLE this could be landmark legislation. The bill provides to aid youth on the basis of a two million dollar appropriation -- through the various communities in the state of Connecticut. I won't go into detail because I'm you -- I'm sure you have heard from other statistics and probably strong factors to support the bill. If you haven't heard from them today I'm sure that you have received it through the mail. Another thing I want to point out is the fact as I already alerted I am a product of the Boys Club Programs that have existed over the years in the past thirty or forty years and for some reason or other they seem to be dying out. This Youth Program that is referred to in this particular bill and here I say that you may even want to modify it a bit than what is drafted in this bill itself but I do want to stress -- emphasize -- that some of the activities and programs

REPRESENTATIVE ED GADELSKI (CONT'D):

to be funded under this Act to be provided INAUDIBLE would be public service job program. This is in the last paragraph in the bill and I say that this is a preventive measure from the standpoint of Youth is definitely got to be serviced. They are provided by the Good Lord with and abundant -- abundance of energy and a desire for adventure and if this is misdirected especially in our modern society it is obvious that it is so. The savings that could be accrued from actually is happening insofar vandalism is concerned -- muggings in the streets -- as well as the drug problem which we are confronted with would be more than the amount of money which we will actually appropriate for this particular bill. So on that basis Mr. Chairman and members of the committee -- I strongly recommend and I hope you will come up with a favorable on this bill or some modification thereof. Thank you.

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: ANY QUESTIONS? Thank you very much.

RICHARD F. KELLY, DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION, HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION: I am representing the Connecticut Association of Public School Adult Education, in support of Senate Bill #1043 to Joint Committee on Corrections, Welfare and Humane Institutions of the General Assembly on March 31, 1971.

I am here representing the 214 members of the Connecticut Association of Public School Adult Education and urge this committee to favorably consider Senate #1043. Many of us have had the experience of cooperating with the Correction Centers in an attempt to provide an educational or training program for inmates of these centers, and this experience has convinced us that the reason many of the inmates were there was because of their lack of education or training and thus not able to successfully cope with the social and economic structure of the outside community. Implementation of the provisions of Senate Bill #1043 would help remedy this situation. Thank you.

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: Any questions? Thank you very much.

JOHN DOERMANN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF YOUTH SERVICES:

I'd like to speak briefly to oppose S. B. 7046. This is a bill for two million dollars to be distributed to the municipalities to enable them to hire Youth Coordinators. This is something which we figure is a good notion I mean the basic idea behind it I'm sure is a good one but we consider this bill to be extremely vague without proper definition of objectives without control either by our department or by some other place and we consider that's an awfully large sum of money in a year where other services are being badly cut back and that's about all I have to say about it.

INAUDIBLE

VICE CHAIRMAN CHAGNON: You're not against the principle of the bill?

JOHN DOERMANN: No, I'm not against the principle but I just think as presently set up it's bad way to get rid of two million dollars.

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MR. CAMP (163rd):

Mr. Speaker, only for the purpose of expressing amazement at a fee of \$35,000 for proposing such a study. I think it could be done for about a tenth of that amount.

THE SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the bill as amended? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying aye. Opposed? The bill is PASSED.

MR. PAPANDREA (78th):

Mr. Speaker, next would be Calendar No. 1436, substitute for S.B. 0916, File No. 1400, An Act Concerning Municipalities Borrowing in Anticipation of State and Federal Grants, and I move you that this matter be recommitted to the Committee on Government Administration and Policy.

THE SPEAKER:

The gentleman has moved to recommit the second calendar item on page 12. Will you remark? Is there objection? Hearing none, the item indicated is recommitted.

MR. PAPANDREA (78th):

The next item, Mr. Speaker, would be Calendar No. 1439, substitute for S.B. No. 1043, File No. 1270.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1439, substitute for S.B. No. 1043, An Act Concerning the Provision of Academic and Vocational Instruction at the State Correctional Institutions and Centers, on page 12 of the calendar.

MR. BROWN (148th):

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

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THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

MR. BROWN (148th):

Mr. Speaker, this would simply provide that academic training and vocational training in our correctional centers. This, again, would broaden the present opportunities that are presently in our institutions, and I move its adoption.

THE SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the bill?

MR. COLLINS (165th):

Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that the projected cost on this is slightly over a half a million dollars. I do not believe there is sufficient money provided in either the Democratic leadership budget or the Governor's budget to fully fund this matter. I would leave it in the good judgment of this body whether we should continue to increase the appropriation over what is provided for in the proposed budget.

THE SPEAKER:

Would the gentleman care to respond?

MR. BROWN (148th):

Mr. Speaker, this bill, of course, is under the Department of Corrections. It's one of the things that we have indicated for some time that we wanted to provide the opportunities for academic and vocational instruction in our institutions. I can understand the gentleman's concern about finances but I am assured that this is taken care of, at least in the Democratic budget, that this is a commitment which we will honor at this time.

THE SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the bill? If not, all those in favor indicate ad
by saying aye. Opposed? The bill is PASSED.

MR. PAPANDREA (78th):

Mr. Speaker, we would next proceed to the very next matter, calendar
No. 1441, S.B. No. 1090, File No. 863.

MR. O'NEILL (52nd):

Mr. Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's
favorable report and passage in concurrence with the Senate.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

MR. O'NEILL (52nd):

Mr. Speaker, this particular bill creates a bicentennial commission
in the State of Connecticut in conjunction with the other twelve of the thirteen
original states, to celebrate our 200th anniversary in the United States. It's
a good bill, Mr. Speaker, and it should pass.

MR. MATTHEWS (161st):

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge adoption of this bill. I think the
State of Connecticut, having been one of the initial members of the constitu-
tion of the United, founders of the constitution in the United States should be
represented immediately and as soon as possible and I would ask that it be
forwarded in whatever way one does this to the Governor or the Senate so that
it could be approved and relayed to President Nixon as quickly as possible.
Thank you.

MR. ARGAZZI (25th):

Mr. Speaker, a question through you, to the proponent of the bill.
Does, are the member of the commission going to be paid at all?

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to either motion. Both will be so ordered.

Will you proceed?

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Yes Mr. President, I'll try and proceed slowly for the benefit of the members of the press. I move that the following reports of the joint committees be accepted. And the following bills passed by unanimous consent.

Cal. 569, Senate Joint Resolution 0019 File 753, Resolution providing for A Portrait of the Honorable Howard Wells Alcorn.

Cal. 614, S.B. 1090 File 863 Establishing A Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut.

Cal. 620, S.B. 1762 File 856 An Act Concerning Construction of Recreational Facilities In the Town of Stafford.

Cal. 652, File 964, S.B. 240 An Act Concerning the Compensation of Finance Advisory Committee Members.

Cal. 655, File 958, Substitute for S.B. 1266 An Act Concerning An Appropriation For the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center.

Cal. 687, File 1007, Substitute for S.B. 287 An Act Concerning State Payment of Instruction Costs for Blind Persons.

Cal. 757, File 778, H.B. 9081 An Act Concerning Distinguishing signs for All America Cities.

Cal. 761, File 1088, S.B. 283 An Act Concerning State Docks at Guilford and East Haddam.

Cal. 838, File 1182, Substitute for S.B. 1577 An Act Concerning Allowance of Credit in the State Retirement System for Prior Municipal Court Service.

Cal. No. 877, page 7, File 1251 Substitute for S.B. 211. An Act Concerning An Appropriation for Erosion Control in Fairfield.

Cal. 916, File 1270 Substitute for S.B. 1043 An Act Concerning the Provision of Academic and Vocational Instruction At the State Correctional Institutions and Centers.