

SB 283

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Transportation 243-245

House 5673-5674

Senate 2653

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

TRANSPORTATION

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passenger for residents of Branford who do not wish to pay cash price of 25¢ as stated in the bill.

Rep. O'Dea: Any questions? Thank you Sir. Is there any opposition? We will close on this bill and we will now hear S.B. 76 AN ACT EXEMPTING MUNICIPAL OWNED VEHICLES FROM THE PAYMENT OF TOLLS. Sen. Gunther has already spoken in favor of the bill. Anyone else in favor? Any opposition?

Mr. Fitzgibbons: Members of the Committee, Arthur Fitzgibbons, Department of Transportation, speaking on S.B. 76, Section 13-a 161 of the 1969 Supplement to the General Statutes presently provides free passage to all local ambulance, fire apparatus, emergency or police vehicles and vehicles of any military branch of the state of federal government. To allow free passage to any and all vehicles of the 169 municipalities and their sub-divisions, if any, of our State could set a precedent leading to requests also for free passage to any and all federal government vehicles as well. The combination of both could result in a substantial reduction of revenue. The Department of Transportation feels that it is not in the financial interest of our State, at this time, to give consideration to any reduction in the revenues of the toll roads and bridges. For this reason, the Department of Transportation opposes.

Rep. Holdsworth: Earl Holdsworth of the 125th. Previously there was an indication that the bond restricts the vehicles that can pass through the toll stations without paying toll. Now, this bill here bothers me a little bit because there is a question in my mind except at those locations prohibited by bond convenience and I'm just wondering what other toll stations are involved which would the bond convenience wouldn't cover.

Rep. O'Dea: Any other questions? Thank you Sir. Anyone else opposed to the bill. The hearing is closed on this bill. The next bill is S.B. 283 STATE DOCKS AT GUILFORD AND EAST HADDAM. Anyone in favor of this bill?

Mr. Lynch: My name is William J. Lynch, I'm the Legislature Administrative Advisor for the Bureau of Highways and we support this bill. For the past several years, I have a printed statement I'll leave with the Secretary, but for the past several years, maybe for the past 20 years the immediates of this, the bridge, especially the docks, the docks at Guilford have been by specific allotment as a consequence these docks have deteriorated pitifully. Lateral support with abutting property owners has disappeared and conceivably there will be extensive repairs required whether the monies appropriated or not. I think there is a legal responsibility for the State to maintain its property to protect abutting property owners. This bill would make it possible for the Commissioner of Transportation to take whatever steps are necessary to make repairs to both of these bridges, the State, bridges, I have a fixation on bridges today, the docks at Guilford and East Haddam as they become necessary. We have had extensive underwater studies

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made, there is a corrugated structure here supporting the docks at Guilford, its corroded away and its going to have to be repaired, and its going to go beyond a simple allotment. Its going to require whatever funds are necessary to make these repairs. In view of this, since it is the States responsibility, I think that this bill would have to pass in order to permit the Commissioner to do what is necessary.

Rep. McHugh: Where are we going to get the money?

Mr. Lynch: I think it would have to come from the Highway Fund. This is a highway facility, its maintained by the Commissioner, but up until recently, if this bill passes it will be the first time that the Commissioner will be able to do whatever, is necessary to repair the facilities, prior to this it would be twenty thousand dollars a biannium, it might be five thousand the next biannium and they just haven't been able to even keep to maintain the status quo. There has been a steady deterioration to a point where the abutting property owners are compaining more and more loudly each year that the water is washing under the State docks, and effecting their property. I understand next to the restaurant down off the Guilford Dock that has had trouble in his parking lot. This certainly wouldn't be a waste of money, the Commissioner wouldn't be spending any more money than he absolutely had to, but right now there is a serious question whether we could make any repairs.

Rep. Reinhold: I got a question, Mr. Chairman, Why do you need a bill for this? Why can't you proceed with these bills without a bill?

Mr. Lynch: Well legislation giving the Commissioner power to spend money refers to highways and bridges and highway facilities. This is not a highway facilitie strictly speaking but it is the property of the Statethroughout the Committee. Its an unusual situation it goes back probably 30 years the property was transferred to the Commissioner of Highways, it became his responsibility and the only way that he could expend any funds was by coming the legislature each year and in the special budget asking for a specific allotment and the money just hasn't been adequate, frankly through the years, to maintain the property for which we feel we have a responsibility.

Rep. Holdsworth: Earl Holdsworth, 125th again. Do you have any estimate as to the amount of mony that will be neede as for the present time for the restoration of the property?

Mr. Lynch: I think that this is what the Commissioner would do, Mr. Fitzgibbons has just reminded me the last figure we have was two hundred thousand dollars to put this dock back in repair. Its a corrugated steel structure and we have had numerous complaints from the abutting property owners that their property is going under our property in the bay.

Rep. Frate: Representative Frate I guess the reason for this bill under the statutes is you can't use highway funds for this particular project. This bill would allow you to use highway funds for that.

Rep. O'Dea: Any other questions: Thank you Mr. Lynch, Anyone else in

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favor of this bill? Any opposition to the bill? The hearing is closed on this bill. We will now hear S.B. 255 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAVEL AT SLOW SPEEDS ON HIGHWAYS. Anyone in favor?

Mr. McLeod: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee my name is John McLeod, State Police Traffic Division. The State Police Department is in favor of this legislation which provides that a vehicle travelling upgrade on a limited access highway at a speed slower than the forty mile per hour minimum limit, or at a slow enough speed on any other highway so as to obstruct or endanger following traffic, be required to display flashing lights as a warning to other traffic. We would recommend one change. This bill should apply only to commercial motor vehicles. In the new portion of the bill the word "commercial" should be inserted before the word "vehicle".

Rep. O'Dea: Any questions? Thank you Mr. McLeod, Anyone else in favor of the bill?

Mr. Laraiia: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, Roco Laraiia Department of Transportation would like to speak on S.B. 255 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAVEL AT SLOW SPEEDS ON HIGHWAYS. This bill proposes to amend Section 14-220 to add the requirement that whenever a vehicle traveling upgrade is unable to maintain minimum speeds, the operator of such a vehicle shall employ flashing lights. This provision would be in accordance with the Uniform Vehicle Code and is strongly endorsed. While it is not the intent of this bill to permit vehicles to travel at less than the minimum speeds, commercial vehicles when traveling upgrade at times cannot maintain the required speed, therefore, it is felt that some warning in the form of flashing lights should be utilized. A substitute bill has been prepared for consideration by the Committee which adds the word "commercial" to eliminate the problem of the existing portion of the statute from prohibiting slow speeds and the proposed addition, possibly, in effect, making it permissive. It is, therefore, felt that by the addition of the word "commercial" and the use of the word "upgrade" this permissive aspect would be sufficiently limited. For the reasons stated above it is respectfully requested that the sub-committee bill, that this substitute bill, receive a favorable report from this Committee.

Rep. O'Dea: Thank you Mr. Laraiia. Anyone else in favor of the bill?

Mr. Mancuso: Anthony Mancuso, State Traffic Commission, I wish to concur with the Secretary of my Department of Transportation and seek favorable report on this bill for the sake of uniformity so that flashing lights will present a standard and uniform meaning to the traveling public.

Rep. O'Dea: Thank you Mr. Mancuso. Anyone else in favor?

Mr. Carroll: Ed Carroll, Department of Motor Vehicles, I most certainly favor this bill and perhaps I misread them but as I thought S.B. 255 and S.B. 257 were quite similar and they would support both these measures in any event.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

JOHN GROPPA, 176th District:

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes an appropriation of \$25,000 to the town of Fairfield for the purpose of initiating an erosion control project in that town. It is a good bill and I move for its passage.

JOSEPH GORMLEY, 142nd District:

Mr. Speaker, I favor this bill. It is something that is badly needed in our town of Fairfield and, without taking too much time of the Assembly, I recommend its passage.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further remarks on the bill? All those in favor say aye, opposed. The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1425, Senate Bill No. 283, An Act Concerning State Docks at Guilford and East Haddam.

WILLIAM O'NEILL, 52nd District:

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance and passage of this particular bill in concurrence with the Senate.

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

WILLIAM O'NEILL, 52nd District:

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Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the Commissioner of Highways to repair the sluiceway at Guilford Creek Harbor adjacent to Whitfield Street and also allows him to maintain a state dock in East Haddam, Connecticut. The monies for this are in the Highway Department budget.

ROBERT ORCUTT, 100th District:

Mr. Speaker, very briefly, this is an excellent bill and I hope that it is adopted.

JOSEPH COATSWORTH, 76th District:

Mr. Speaker, at one time, I understood there had been an amendment to this bill offered by David Lavine of the 73rd District and I would ask the Clerk if there is still such an amendment or whether or not he withdrew it. I note that David Lavine is not in the chamber at this time and I would ask that if there is still an amendment, perhaps, in courtesy to him we might pass this temporarily.

THE CLERK:

The Clerk has no amendments.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Clerk is not in possession of an amendment. Question is on acceptance and passage, all those in favor indicate by saying aye, opposed? The bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Calendar No. 1428, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 372, An Act Concerning Cost of Living Adjustments in Salaries of

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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.