

<b>Act Number</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Total Number of Committee Pages</b>	<b>Total Number of House Pages</b>	<b>Total Number of Senate Pages</b>
PA 71-67		5091	10	4	2
<u>Committee Pages:</u>				<u>House Pages:</u>	<u>Senate Pages:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Government Administration &amp; Policy</i> 37-39</li> <li>• <i>Government Administration &amp; Policy</i> 46-52</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 988-991</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 929-930</li> </ul>

**H-110**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
1971**

**VOL. 14  
PART 3  
974-1450**

Wednesday, March 24, 1971

15.

marks? If not the question is on acceptance and passage. All those in favor indicate by saying aye, those opposed. The bill is passed. I'd warn the gentleman from the 95th that if he's in his seat our rules require that he vote on all matters pending before us.

MBS

THE CLERK:

Calendar 127. Substitute for House Bill No. 5091. An Act Concerning Powers of Regional Councils of Elected Officials.  
File 105.

SARAH FRANCES CURTIS, 164th District:

Mr. Speaker, there is an amendment on this bill. May we have that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage and I understand the Clerk has House Amendment Schedule "A", will be call "A"?

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A" offered by Mr. Ratchford of the 167th and Mr. Collins of the 165th. In Section 2, line 13, delete the words "an area" and insert "a region"

In line 17, after the word "amended" insert a period and strike out the remainder of lines 17 and 18

Make Section 3, Section 4 and add a new Section 3 as follows:....

MR. SPEAKER:

The amendment is not on your desks for the benefit of the members following could we have more order. Mr. Clerk.

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THE CLERK:

MBS

"Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 4-124b of the 1969 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: Make available financial assistance FOR SUPPORT OF REGIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE GENERAL STATUTES, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 25-5c, to any regional planning agency established under chapter 127(,) AND ANY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS IN ANY REGION WHERE THERE IS NO REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY with the approval of the commissioner of finance and control. Such financial assistance, if any, shall be rendered upon such contractual arrangements as may be agreed upon by said director and any such regional planning agency OR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS in accordance with their respective needs and formulae as established by the director of planning."

SARAH FRANCES CURTIS, 164th District:

Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of this amendment and will yield to our Rep. Collins for the explanation.

FRANCIS J. COLLINS, 165th District:

Mr. Speaker, the amendment we have before us is rather technical in nature. It simply cleans up some of the language in Section 2 where there is reference made to an area. Under the standard provisions of statutes of this nature they have been using the word region rather than area so that cleans up that. The second change is a similar change which would take out the words within the area represented. The third and final

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change as read by the Clerk in this amendment would simply correct another statute, which upon review and sitting down with Mr. Brown of the State Planning Council, it was realized that there was another section of the statutes which should also be cleared up to include the Regional Councils of Elected Officials as well as the Regional Planning Agencies. It's rather technical. It does not significantly change the intent of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there further remarks on the amendment? All those in favor of adoption of Amendment Schedule "A" indicate by saying aye, those opposed, the amendment is adopted. The Chair will rule his amendment technical and we may proceed with the bill as amended.

SARAH FRANCES CURTIS, 164th District:

Mr. Speaker, this bill expands the Regional Planning Commission which can receive state and technical and financial assistance and to include those councils composed of elected officials. It allows the regional council of elected officials to exercise the powers of a regional planning agency. And this is something that is certainly needed for the area of Danbury, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Brookfield. I hope the bill passes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there further remarks on the bill as amended. If not, the question is on acceptance and passage as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A". All those in favor indicate by saying

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aye, those opposed? The bill, as amended, is passed.

MBS

THE CLERK:

Calendar 136. House Bill No. 6263. An Act Concerning Proof of Financial Responsibility on Violation of Certain Motor Vehicle Statutes. File 120.

WILLIAM J. SCULLY, Jr., 91st District:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is on acceptance and passage, will you remark?

WILLIAM J. SCULLY, JR., 91st District:

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Clerk will call House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A" offered by Mr. Hannon of the 16th and Mr. Sarasin of the 95th.

In line 18, after the word "INSURANCE" delete the words "AS LONG AS IT" and insert the words "DURING THE TIME SAID INSURANCE COMPANY"

In line 19, after the word "PERSON" and before the semi-colon insert the words "AND NO INSURANCE COMPANY SHALL CHARGE A FEE FOR SUCH FILING"

WILLIAM J. SCULLY, JR., 91st District:

Mr. Speaker, this amendment clarifies the time period during which the insurance company has to give out this SR-22

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6, 1971

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camps in order to comply with the State regulations have on call a physician licensed in Connecticut. However, they are difficult to get a hold of inasmuch as, these camps are located in rural areas and often they are very much overworked. So this bill would permit the examining board to issue a license to any out of state physician, for 25 dollars and it would be effective for 9 weeks. The purpose is to have some of the manpower, some of these doctors who are on the staff of boarding schools or serve in the Health Department of Colleges. They would have some free time available in the summer and they could serve at these camps. And the people that run these camps in the Litchfield area have submitted to me, names of doctors who are willing and able to serve in this capacity. We currently do license out of state doctors, when they furnish a 100 dollar fee and of course, meet all the other requirements. So this is a good bill and it would be a help to improve the care of the camp.

THE CHAIR:

Any further remarks? Question is on passage of the bill. Those in favor signify by saying, "aye". Opposed? The ayes have it. Bill adopted.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 169. FILE NO. 105. Favorable report of the joint standing committee on Government administration and policy. Substitute House Bill No. 100 An Act Concerning Powers of Regional Councils of Elected Officials. As amended by House Amendment Schedule A.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, as amended by House Schedule A.

April 6, 1971

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This legislates into existence regional councils of elected officials where there are no regional planning agencies. This legislation was prompted by the fact that the councils are not recognized by HUD, at the present time. This legislation is needed, so that these councils will be recognized. The amendment merely amends an existing statute to provide for payment to these regional councils as well as to regional planning agencies.

SENATOR RIMER:

Mr. President, I just briefly, want to go on record as supporting this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Further remarks? Question is on passage of the bill. Those in favor signify by saying, "aye". Opposed? Ayes have it. Bill is passed.

THE CLERK:

Clerk has changes of reference from the House. Favorable changes of reference.

FAVORABLE REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT:

House Bill No. 6838. An Act Concerning INcreased Aid to Municipalities for Waste Disposal Facilities and Operations. Referred to Finance.

ENVIRONMENT: HOUSE BILL NO. 7740. An ACT Concerning Purchases of Property Aborting Miller's Pond in the Town of Durham to complete State Park Land and Miller's Pond. Referred to Appropriations.

ENVIRONMENT: HOUSE BILL NO. 7869. An Act Concerning State Pilots and Pilotage. Referred to General Law.

ENVIRONMENT: HOUSE BILL NO. 7984. An Act Concerning the Establishment of a State Park on Route 7 between Norwalk and New Milford. Finance.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
&  
POLICY**

**PART 1  
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## GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 3, 1971

Representative David Neiditz, presiding

Members present: Senators: Hammer, Sullivan  
 Representatives: Curtis, Nigro, Neiditz, Donnelly, O'Dea,  
 Carragher, Mortensen, Clarke, Willard

Chairman Neiditz: Good afternoon, I'm Rep. Neiditz from West Hartford, House Chairman of the committee. This is Sen. Sullivan on my right, he is Senate Chairman, Rep. Curtis from Newtown, this is Rep. Spain from Danbury, Rep. Carragher to the right of Sen. Sullivan from Hartford and Rep. Nigro from Enfield.

The first bill we're going to take up today and we'll do them in order unless there's a particular problem. Before we start I'd just like to mention that Senate Bill 541 which I believe is on for today's hearing will not be heard. There have to be some corrections made in it. It's entitled AN ACT CONCERNING MONTHLY REPORTS OF THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD. So that will be taken off, we will not have a hearing on that at this time.

The first bill is H.B. No. 5091 (Sen. Petroni of the 24th, Rep. Camp of the 163rd, Rep. Curtis of the 164th, Rep. Collins of the 165th, Rep. Spain of the 166th, Rep. Ratchford of the 167th, Rep. Esposito of the 168th, Rep. Sullivan of the 169th, Sen. Ives of the 32nd, Rep. Morgan of the 8th.) AN ACT CONCERNING POWERS OF REGIONAL COUNCILS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS. Anyone wish to be heard in favor of this bill? I think Mr. McCollam of the Senate has to be downstairs and wearing his other hat is first selectman of the town of Bethel. I'll let him make a brief statement and get out of here.

Charles McCollam: Just for the record, my name is Charles McCollam, I'm first selectman of the town of Bethel and I am in favor of this bill 5091 and wish it's passage in this session. Thank you David.

Chairman Neiditz: Any of the legislators who wish to be heard on this bill?

Rep. Spain: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I'm Rep. Spain of Danbury. I'm a member of the committee and wouldn't ordinarily speak except at this time I also want to give the endorsement of Speaker Ratchford and Rep. Esposito to this bill 5091. All three of us feel it's necessary and desirable for our area and we hope for its passage.

Chairman Neiditz: Thank you.

Rep. Curtis: I'm a member of the committee, also a co-signor in the bill. I would like to say I support it whole heartedly and hope

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that the committee will support the bill.

Sen. Petroni:

Cochairmen Rep. Neiditz and Sen. Sullivan and members of the committee on Governmental Policy and Administration, this particular bill was before the 1967 session and now it's before - 1969 session, pardon me, and is now being considered by this committee. It has the approval of the six towns in this district. Those towns are Danbury, Richfield, Newtown, Bethel, Reading and Brookfield. New Fairfield which is part of the region is not part of the council of elected officials at this time. However, we certainly expect them to join in in the near future.

The area council is today represented by five towns and the first selectmen are here. Charles McCollam just testified from Bethel and we have with us today first selectman M. Woodcock from Richfield, first selectman, Wesley Kennen from Brookfield, first selectman Jesse Sanford from Redding and first selectman Tim Treadwell from Newtown. The Mayor of Danbury, the largest city in this council, was not able to attend because of prior commitments and he does have a letter which I would like to read into the record. It is addressed to Sen. William J. Sullivan, dated Feb. 26th, 1971.

Dear Senator:

It is my understanding that you have a bill before your committee relating to the Housatonic Valley Council elected officials to an effect recognized the council as a planning agency. I would like to go on record as supporting this bill. The region has prepared a plan which I have filed with the group of the committee. It's entitled Housatonic Area Regional Plan proposed land use sewage disposal water supply open space and recreation and it's dated Jan. 1971.

This plan was presented a public hearing last month and unanimously approved by all the towns in this region. This bill would permit the council to receive state and federal grants in the same manner that Regional Planning Agencies do now, where no such Regional Planning Agencies exist.

This council was supported by six of the towns with appropriations of (\$10,000) ten thousand dollars each. In that appropriation we have now a paid executive secretary, director and an engineer and funds from that were used to prepare this plan that I outlined.

This region certainly is one of the most growing areas in the state. We have exceeded the growth by about three times the state average and in the area of sewer water and open space, the tremendous impact that the growth has caused, requires us to act and act quickly. We have sewer projects now being built, plants that is, in Danbury, in the planning stages in Richfield and in Newtown. There is certainly a need for these utilities and without the recognition by the state. the federal agency HUD which has jurisdiction, will withdraw its recognition of the agency. At this time the Federal Agency, The Department

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of Housing and Urban Development has given us temporary approval of the plans, which approval expires as of July 1, 1971. Unless this session of the General Assembly approves this particular bill. Therefore, I urge you to give it serious consideration and ask it's adoption in order to promote the general welfare of the 120,000 people who live in this particular area.

If you have any question I will try to answer them and I have with me the first selectmen from these towns and also the engineer, John Greene who has been retained by the area council, who is very familiar with this plan. He worked with Technical Planning Associates that prepared it and he is the town engineer for, I think all the towns in this area and he is certainly familiar with the problems and would be willing to answer any questions that you may have.

Chairman Neiditz: Thank you Sen. Petroni. I noticed in the draft and I think the staff would take care of this, that it should be the 19th supplement, and is it your feeling that if the committee puts the favor on this it should be effective on passage?

Sen. Petroni: That is correct.

Chairman Neiditz: Are there any other legislators that want to be heard? Rep. Cretella of the 99th speaking in favor of H.B. 6258.

Rep. Cretella: I'm Rep. Cretella from the 99th district and you will find in your file bill No. 6258, it's the 10th one down in your stack. It's a very short bill you will note. It only consists of three and one half lines, but I think it may be a very important piece of legislation for this General Assembly. H.B. No. 6258 (Rep. Cretella of the 99th.) AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOWING LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES TO AMEND THEIR PENSION AND RETIREMENT PLANS. Briefly a small bit of background information is that the 1965 Constitution as you know, Article 10 prohibited the General Assembly from enacting any further Special Act Legislation relating to towns.

Those of you who've been here in the past and that does not include me, although I've been involved, know that Special Act Legislation took up a great deal of time of the General Assembly to the extent that the Constitutional Amendment finally came about to stop it so that the General Assembly could handle other legislation. That section of the Constitution in effect said that all towns would henceforth handle their own legislation. The home rule bill was enacted to facilitate that. We have the situation here in which there are many many towns which have pension and retirement plans for their employees. Those pension-retirement plans may or may not have been made a part of the local town charter.

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In closing I would just hope that you would bring out an unfavorable report in this bill and make me a good deal younger. Thank you.

Chairman Neiditz:

If there are no other legislators who wish to be heard on any of the bills, it's my intention to go back to H.B. 5091 which we had most of the early testimony on and then go from there. I think take two bills up together, H.B. 6204 and S.B. 176. I think some of the speakers might wish to speak to both of those subject matter being somewhat similar. Anyone else wish to be heard in favor of H.B. 5091?

John Greene:

Mrs. Curtis, gentlemen, my name is John Greene, I'm a consulting engineer in the city of Danbury, Connecticut. I am here to speak in favor of H.B. 5091. In addition to being the town engineer in two of these communities, I'm also the planning director for the Housatonic Area Council of Elected Officials.

I'd like to give a brief history of Regional Planning in our area. From Chapter 127 was first proposed several of the communities in our area took to town meeting to question joining the regional plan. This was rejected by the electorate. In Newtown for example four to one, in Ridgefield seven to one.

As an alternate to Chapter 127, the Regional Planning Concept, a council of elected officials was formed and this was unanimously endorsed by six of the seven member towns in the region.

We have in fact during the past two years prepared a regional plan. This regional plan has been accepted by the Tri-State Transportation Agency. It has been reviewed by the Connecticut Planning Agency and has been accepted as the regional plan of our area. This is fact, this is proven to be a very workable agency and I urge favorable consideration of this bill. Thank you.

Chairman Neiditz:

Thank you very much sir. There are other people who have signed the list that they wished to speak.

Dana Hanson:

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Dana Hanson, I'm director of the Capitol Region of Council of Governments. I'm here before you to alert you to the fact that the Council of Governments is sponsored with the Capitol Regional Planning Agency has prepared a S.B. 761. I'm here as the director of Council of Governments speaking concerning this bill as it relates to another, S.B. 761 introduced by Sen. Rome and Sen. Alfano concerning consolidation of councils of elected officials in planning agencies and in regions where both exists or in regions where none exists.

I would only like to point out that most of the language in the H.B. 5091 generally meets with the approval of the elected officials because we've been attempting to get state and federal

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funds ourselves and have been successful in that we do have a planning agency in the region to get funds through the planning agency as a third party contractor. However, we recognize the intent and the requirement of the federal government and the interest of the state for the performance of planning as a part of voluntary regional effort. Therefore, we've attempted to introduce in our proposed consolidated legislation, the responsibility for policy making with elected officials, but a planning element within that.

I would just like to bring that to your attention before you take final action on H.B. 5091 that you would consider S.B. 761 and that if the people from the Housatonic Valley who I visited with in the past, can talk to concerning councils of elected officials and your committee and ourselves, if it became necessary or in our mutual interest to sit down together. We'd like to do that so that we don't end up with several different kind of legislation on the books that might be interpreted as inconsistent or controversial. S.B. 761 is new legislation and has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.

Chairman Neiditz:

I see. We are still on H.B. 5091. Mr. Wesley Kennen, first selectman of the town of Brookfield. I would note that the first selectmen of Ridgefield, Brookfield, Newtown and Reading are here and trust that -

Wesley Kennen:

In order not to be repetitious as first selectman of the town of Brookfield, I also am the chairman, the initial chairman and still existing chairman of the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials. I just want to say that this is a very recent organization and I think it has been most effective. We have found that in the small time that we've actually been in business that we have in capacity, superseded some of the Regional Planning Agencies that have been active for several years. I think we've done a job we've been supported wholly by our own municipalities. We've had no assistance from state or federal as of this point and we realize that in order to continue to function, we must look toward the state and federal for support.

It is also our understanding now that a federal requirement under HUD is that the composition of planning agencies of any area shall be 75% of administrative officials. So we feel that we got the jump and in order to carry this out to be fully effective, that the route to go is the way that we have chosen. We feel that we would very highly recommend favorable approval of this bill. Thank you very much.

Chairman Neiditz:

Mr. Woodcock, first selectman of Ridgefield.

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. Woodcock:

At a town meeting in Ridgefield they voted unanimously to join the council and are for it. At a subsequent meeting the town voted the appropriation of (\$10,000) ten thousand dollars as the town share in supporting and creating our plan. I would like to emphasize that the town of Ridgefield is very strong for this bill.

While I'm here may I say that before S.B. 223? S.B. No 223  
(Sen. Petroni of the 24th, Rep. Camp of the 163rd.) AN ACT  
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE STATE POLICE BARRACKS AND LAND  
IN RIDGEFIELD TO THE TOWN.

Chairman Neiditz:

You may sir.

J. Woodcock:

Well in Ridgefield we have a ridge that we call East Ridge. One end we have a present Senior High, the other end of the ridge is our Junior High and on one side we have an elementary school. Both the P and Z Board and our school board have asked the selectmen to acquire the land in between, as we haven't sufficient land for athletic fields. We have acquired two pieces so far. We have one piece now that we are negotiating for but this acre or so that the State Police have is right in the middle and if we don't secure it, it's always going to be a thorn. This acre or so that the State Police has, has a house on it which was old 40 years ago when the State Police took it over. They have a garage on it which is relatively new but it's not the building, it's the land that really we would like. Thank you very much.

Chairman Neiditz:

Thank you very much sir.

F. Treadwell:

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Treadwell, first selectman of the town of Newtown. I would like to reiterate, if I could, Mr. Greene's comments that the people of the town of Newtown rejected at a town meeting taken by referendum, the concept of regional planning under Chapter 127 by a four to one majority, that a subsequent town meeting approved the concepts of council of elected officials without descending vote. I feel that the people of the town of Newtown strongly support this bill and we would urge favorable action by the committee.

J. Sanford:

First selectman of Redding. I'd like to simply reiterate. I would like to support the H.B. 5091. The town of Redding has been in the regional plan, we're one of the first towns to except this and then when the other towns didn't come along, we joined elected officials. I'm very strong for this bill.

Chairman Neiditz:

Thank you very much sir.

Harold Ames:

Mr. Chairman, I am Harold Ames, representing the Office of State Planning within the Department of Finance and Control. We support in principle H.B. 5091 but offer views as to other factors you should consider.

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We generally favor legislation which would permit financial aid to regional councils of elected officials when there is agreement in a region that a RCEO should do regional planning and provided the aid is to be devoted to regional planning purposes. By establishing this approach, all regions of the state would be treated equally with regard to regional planning assistance whether they have a RPA or a RCEO. This bill does not provide for local approval of the RCEO adding the planning function nor does it limit aid to regional planning purposes.

We should also note that state assistance is now made available to regional planning agencies under Section 4-124 (b) a of the 1969 Supplement to the General Statutes and we feel it is this section which would have to be amended rather than 32-7 to meet the desires of this bill.

Questions regarding regional planning and regional councils of elected officials also extend to regions which have both a RPA and a RCEO. H.B. 7643 "AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES AND REGIONAL COUNCILS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS" has been introduced by title. It is planned to work with the sponsors to provide comprehensive enabling legislation which would allow a RCEO to take on regional planning functions and receive state aid. It is also intended to allow the merger of RPAs and RCEOs in regions having both, if desired. However, it would establish procedures to be followed which we believe would be desirable.

Your attention is also directed to S.B. 761, "AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT," which would allow establishment of a council of governments that could assume the functions of a regional planning agency and a regional council of elected officials.

We would respectfully urge joint consideration of all of these bills with the aim of achieving legislation which is widely applicable. We would be happy to work with you on this matter.

Chairman Neiditz:

Thank you very much sir. As far as my sheet is concerned all of the proponents have been heard.

Charles Parks:

Mr. Chairman, members of the Governmental Administration and Policy Committee, my name is Charles Parks, I'm chairman of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency and I'm speaking as an individual. However, I have talked with many other people on this subject. I'm appearing against this H.B. 5091.

I have been connected with planning for some ten years myself. I was chairman of the Fairfield Town Planning Zone and Commission for eight. I'm now chairman of the Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency and I've been on that board for four or five years and chairman three.

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My feeling is that this particular legislation is bad in that it is undemocratic and it restricts membership to too small a group. The definition in one of the copies here of members of elected officials, any selectman, mayor, alderman or member of common council or other similar legislative body or warden of any county, city or borough.

Now this leaves out a great many people who can make a great contribution to planning and zoning. This would mean no former elected official could take part in the local planning. It would eliminate businessmen except as they happen to be elected officials. It would eliminate doctors, lawyers, ministers and representatives of many minority groups unless they happen to be members of the elected officials. I do not feel that that is a sound bases for doing regional planning.

I think the original law as it's setup, was setup was excellent. It is my feeling that the purpose of this present bill is to simply get around regional planning and I would say this, that if regional planning is not working the way it is, working right the way it is, maybe it ought to be eliminated and all turned over to elected officials. But I cannot see any sense in doing it one way with one group and another way with another group. And I think it is just a sub-defuge to get around the fact that one or two areas which have had ten to twelve years to join Regional Planning Agencies have not seen fit to do so and take the advantages thereof. And now they are anxious to get the benefits but they're going to do planning and they want to even call a regional planning but it's not going to be done by a tour of Regional Planning Agency.

Now as I see it, there is nothing to stop these communities, if they want to, from going ahead and setting up their own regional planning agencies. And if they do this, this legislation, I think would be completely unnecessary. Futhermore, if any communities within a regional plan want to have all their representatives elected officials, this is fine. I think this is under the commonly accepted practice of home rule and if this is the way the communities want it they can do it. But I think each community should have the opportunity to do it the way it wants to and not to be limited to a very select group.

Furthermore, my feeling is that you only have two functions. You have a planning function and an implementation function and I think this is where the Regional Council of Elected Officials comes in. They can serve a very fine purpose of implementating the plan and through implementation, they can achieve a good part of the plan and they can also act as a check on Regional Planning Agencies and can refine and improve things that they don't happen to agree with.

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In conclusion, I would like to state that I am opposed to this act. I am in favor of an orderly form of government and I think doing it different ways in different communities is not an orderly form of government and I believe that if regional planning is good enough for most of the state, let's keep it that way. Thank you.

Chairman Neiditz:

Thank you Mr. Parks.

Alan Lessler:

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Alan Lessler. I am a resident of Oxford and I'm a member of the staff of the Central Naugatuck Regional Planning Agency. I'd like to make a presentation which is against H.B. 5091. I'd like to request Mr. Chairman, if our Regional Planning Agency can send a copy of a policy statement with respect to this particular bill. Thank you.

On February 17, the Central Naugatuck Planning Agency adopted a policy position which does pertain to the effect of the H.B. 5091, and so therefore, at this presentation made by a staff, Regional Planning Agency is against H.B. 5091.

The regional agency voted in part as follows: "We oppose at this time, any legislation that opens up the possibility of alternative forms of Regional Planning in a regional planning area, which could result in the planning function being carried out by a group not specifically oriented to long-range planning. We believe for the present that we can best develop regional planning by using our existing organizational structure. We do not oppose any legislative proposals purporting to solve specific problems in individual regions, so long as the legislation does not make it optional on a state-wide basis for the development of organizations to do regional planning other than Regional Planning Agencies".

It is my opinion that it would appear that the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency is thus against, in principle, this bill because it opens the back door for Regional Council of Elected Officials to do planning where no regional agency exists. It discourages the formation of a regional planning agency where none exists in a region and allows for the possibility that in a region like the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency's region, where a Regional Planning Agency and a Regional Council of Government co-exist. The Regional Planning Agency could be abandoned and voted out of existence and then the Regional Council of Government would be permitted, under this particular bill, to do the planning in the region.

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WEDNESDAY

MARCH 3, 1971

It is my opinion that the intent of the policy statement passed by the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency indicates it does not feel that a Regional Council of Government is the proper authority to do the planning for a region at the present time. Thank you.

Chairman Neiditz:

Anyone else wish to be heard against H.B. 5091? The hearing is closed on that bill. As I indicated before now our intention - S.B. 176 (Sen. Lieberman of the 11th.) AN ACT CONCERNING USER CHARGES BY MUNICIPALITIES ON PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT TAX-EXEMPT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Perhaps if you wish to comment on it at the same time H.B. 6204 (Rep. LaRosa of the 4th.) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE STATUS OF TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF HARTFORD.

Sister Consolata:

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I'm Sister Consolata, President of St. Joseph's College and I would like to speak against S.B. 176. A small private college of which there are 19 private colleges in the state, many of which would be affected by such a bill. I'd just like to say that we certainly recognize the fact that we are benefiting by the public service offered by the municipalities in which we exist. I think we also feel that our presents in the towns in which we are located give certain benefits to these towns also.

Private colleges today are facing great difficulties financially as we all know from reading the press and at such a time for taxation to come to the private colleges, which are struggling to keep going to provide the public service, which we feel that we do provide even though we are private, would be a great handicap to us. Most private colleges today are already running at a deficit, operating at a deficit or facing deficit. This extra burden which we would have to face by such taxation would make it very difficult for us to continue to operate and to continue to operate and to continue to provide the kind of service that we are trying to provide. Thank you.

Chairman Neiditz:

Thank you very much Sister.

A. Woodruff:

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Woodruff, I am the president of the University of Hartford. I also have the dubious honor of being president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, the group of 19 institutions of which the Sister just spoke and the still more dubious distinction of having spent a great many years professionally as a tax economist.

We'll start off sir speaking from the background of the colleges