

HB 7031

PA 680 (Vetoed)

1971

Public Personnel & Military Affairs 63,77

House 5209-5211

Senate 3402

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## PUBLIC PERSONNEL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 1971

- Albert Young, Employed by Town of Windsor. Speaking in behalf of HB-7031  
I would like to speak in opposition to this bill. It is introduced to provide a cost of living adjustment to members of the Municipal Employees Retirement Fund B. This bill is inequitable for it only pertains to one group and makes no mention of employees in Fund A. The Town of Windsor participates in both funds, the regular employees are in Fund A and the Police Dept. are in Fund B. I would like to suggest to the sponsor of this bill that he take the bull by the horns.
- William Quinn, Speaking in support of HB 6791. Director of Management of Hartford Housing Authority. Chairman of Pension Committee for the Conn. Assoc. of Housing for the Redevelopment and Officials. The Connecticut Municipal Employees Fund was initiated to provide a sound and efficient system for the payment of retirement benefits. The plan is separate from the State Employees Retirement Plan. The State Treasurer is merely the custodian of the funds. The procedure for inclusion in the plan states "Any town, city, borough, housing authority may exercise the option of including its employees in this plan." The contributions to this plan require that housing authority employees having Social Security coverage contribute at the rate of ~~2 1/2%~~ and also 5% on any excess in the Social Security. The contribution by a housing authority consists of three parts. The stumbling block is the Federal Government. Up until July 1, 1967, the Federal Housing Urban Development Department had no objection to any housing authority joining in the Retirement Fund B. Some authorities did. New London was the last. The majority unfortunately did not, due to a lack of knowledge of its existence and opportunity to join in its benefits. On Dec. 21, 1967, HUD issued a circular entitled, Policy Governing Local Agency Retirement Plan. It provided that all new retirement plans submitted on or after July 1, would require where membership in a public plan is permitted., rather than mandatory the local housing authority employee must pay at least 50% of the cost. In this same issue HUD stated where a plan is mandatory local agency contribution may be charged in accordance with the employee, employer sharing formula applicable to other political sub-divisions. In other words, this is very discriminatory, so we are here today to oblige the Federal directive by asking this legislative body to support the change in the wording from housing authority may exercise the option of including its employees in this plan to shall, and thereby making it mandatory to join. Thank you.
- Mr. Ozomac, Executive Director East Hartford Housing Authority, Chmn. Legislative Committee for the CAHRA of which there are over 60 Housing Authorities. I also speak in favor of HB-6791 and I will not repeat what my predecessor has spoken for they have spoken the truth. I can only speak from experience of my own staff members who have retired in the last three years with a bitter feeling in their hearts that after 20 or 26 years working

PUBLIC PERSONNEL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 1971

with the municipality. This an unwaranted benefit compared to private retirement plans and Social Security most of which provide for retirement at age 65. If this benefit is established there will be enormous pressure in cities and towns to join this new fund. With the state sharing the cost it would be difficult to resist the employee demands, yet the cost to the municipalities would be very high even with state sharing. We therefore oppose this bill. HB-6791 relates to Housing Authorities being covered by Fund B. of the fund. The problem we see with this bill is that it provides for mandatory cover under Fund B. which has a provision for retirement after 25 years of service regardless of age. We would think that this would be a very costly precedent to set for other municipal employees. We feel that Fund A. provides gererous benefits and we would recommend that the bill be amended to provide for mandatory coverage under Fund A. by Housing Authorities. HB-7031 provides for increases in retirement benefits for members of Fund B. to reflect cost of living increases. This bill is not complete as it is now written because it does not provide a specific formula or guide lines or limitations. We oppose this bill. We support HB-7033. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chmn. Duda,

Mr. Bannon, Walter O'Connor and Michael Ferrucci.

John Bannon,

Pres. State Federation of Teachers. AFL-CIO. I am here to oppose HB-7033. This is an act concerning Political Activity of Teachers. Most of the problems today in our society is based on the fact that many people are saying that our education is not relevant to the problems that we are facing today. What we would be doing if this is the law, we would be standing in front of our students every day and asking them to be participating citizens in this country and the students would be sitting there having no faith in our teaching because they would know we did'nt have an active role in the present day society. For that reason we oppose HB-7033 as one that would go contrary to the teachings that we had been giving our students over the years. We do favor HB-5636, 7293 any othe bill that would return full citizenship to the citizens of the state. We would also like to go on record in support of a bill submitted by Rep. Stolberg. It does not have a bill number as yet. This act concerns collective bargaining for state employed educators. It provides for an exclusive bargaining agent. Therefore we hope you would support bills supporting exclusive bargaining for state employed educators, but we would also ask you to avoid the joint bargaining concept. Thank you.

Walter O'Connor,

Represent the Uniformed Firefighters of Conn. I'd like to put our organization on record as in favor of HB-6782, 6784, 6791, 7031 and 7163. Thank you.

**H-119**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
1971**

**VOL. 14  
PART 12  
5163-5554**

Monday, June 7, 1971 47

good friend from Watertown in the absence of Gordie Vaill who has piloted this project. It seems a rather good section to do this work on an experimental basis since the roadbeds are already there and the amount involved in developing a rail line from Danbury to Pittsfield would be quite minimal. As the gentleman from Watertown has indicated, the other possibility that transportation through that rather rapidly expanding area would be a highway up following the winding Housatonic River, which would almost be prohibitive. Right now, it is a very dangerous and twisty road. I think this is a portent of what is coming in mass transportation and I think this is an excellent spot to wet our feet on this subject.

THE SPEAKER:

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

THE CLERK:

Page 13, on page 13, Calendar No. 1396, substitute for H.B. No. 7031, An Act Concerning an Increase in the Retirement Allowance of Municipal Employees Who are Members of Fund B of the Municipal Employees Retirement System, File No. 1588.

MR. MAIOCCO (133rd):

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

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

MR. MAIOCCO (133rd):

Mr. Speaker, there is an amendment, House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE SPEAKER:

Monday, June 7, 1971

48

The Clerk will call House Amendment Schedule "A".

djh

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A" offered by Mr. Motto of the 3rd.

In Section 1, line 59, after the word "of" insert the word "a".

In line 86, insert below the figure "1968", the figure "1969" and insert below the figure "6.0" the figure "4.0".

MR. MAIOCCO (133rd):

Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance and passage of the amendment, House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark on the adoption of Amendment "A"?

MR. MAIOCCO (133rd):

Mr. Speaker, it's technical in nature. The first portion of the word "a", as you prefer to call it, was left out inadvertently and in line 86 where we include those persons retired prior to July 1, 1969 at an increased rate of 4%. This was inadvertently left out of the original bill and I move that we adopt it.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on Amendment Schedule "A"? If not, all those in favor indicate by saying aye. Opposed? Amendment "A" is ADOPTED.

MR. MAIOCCO (133rd):

Mr. Speaker, I now move for acceptance and passage of the bill as amended?

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

MR. MAIOCCO (133rd):

Mr. Speaker, what this bill would do would be to bring the

Monday, June 7, 1971

49

djh

members of the Municipal Fund B who had retired prior to July 1, 1969 in line with the retirement type payments which are necessary to adjust them to the cost-of-living adjustment over the past few years. I would point out to the Assembly that the figures, the rates of increase on page 3 of the file, 1588, were supplied to the committee by the State Retirement Commission. They're based on the rates of cost-of-living increases over the period of years these rates have increased would now bring these people a little closer to being able to sustain themselves on the sometimes small retirement allowances they now presently have. I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, that while the benefits are, while the benefits would accrue as of July 1st of this year, municipalities would have no obligation to make payments for any increased cost until July 1, 1972 which would give them time to determine the amount of increased costs in the municipality and to budget for it. It's a good bill. It's a humane bill and I would move for its passage.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage as amended by Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark further?

MR. BRUNO (132nd):

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of this report and acceptance of Schedule "A" and the bill.

THE SPEAKER:

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

THE CLERK:

Page 14, on page 14, Calendar No. 1408, substitute for H. B. No. 7237, An Act Validating a Garnishment of the State Treasurer by the Worker's

S-82  
CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

PROCEEDINGS  
1971

VOL. 14  
PART 7  
2874-3413

June 9, 1971

Page 73

File 1608; Cal. 1365, House Bill 5578, File 1444; Cal. 1366, House Bill 5697  
File 666; Cal. 1367, House Bill 5824, File 775; Cal. 1369, House Bill 6180,  
File 1580; Cal. 1371, House Bill 6687, File 1290; Cal. 1372, House Bill 6731  
File 1469; Cal. 1373, House Bill 6842, File 1659; Cal. 1375, House Bill 7031  
File 588; Cal. 1376, House Bill 7237, File 1629; Cal. 1377, House Bill 7493  
File 1623; Cal. 1379, House Bill 7907, File 1446; Cal. 1380, House Bill 7960;  
File 1306; Cal. 1381, House Bill 8093, File 1663; Cal. 1383, House Bill 8170  
File 1621; Cal. 1386, House Bill 9220, File 1635; Cal. 1387, House Bill 9252,  
File 1672; Cal. 1389, House Bill 5154, File 913; Cal. 1390, House Bill 5286,  
File 1271; Cal. 1392, House Bill 5661, File 919; Cal. 1394, House Bill 6380  
File 1386; Cal. 1395, House Bill 6908, File 1442; Cal. 1396, House Bill 6914  
File 1388; Cal. 1397, House Bill 7438, File 890; Cal. 1398, House Bill 7450  
File 1198; Cal. 1399, House Bill 7889, File 1441; Cal. 1296, House Bill 5036  
File 746; Cal. 1297, House Bill 5147, File 1437; Cal. 1298, House Bill 5157  
File 1466; Cal. 1299, House Bill 5216; File 744; Cal. 1300, House Bill 5219  
File 949; Cal. 1301, House Bill 5247, File 1429; Cal. 1303, House Bill 5561  
File 1431; Cal. 1304, House Bill 5577, File 1289; Cal. 1306, House Bill 5754  
File 1554; Cal. 1308, House Bill 5918, File 937; Cal. 1309, House Bill 5953  
File 1445; Cal. 1310, House Bill 5957, File 1563; Cal. 1311, House Bill 5958  
File 1299; Cal. 1312, House Bill 6123, File 1468; Cal. 1313, House Bill 6292  
File 1456; Cal. 1314, House Bill 6376, File 833; Cal. 1315, House Bill 6423  
File 1458; Cal. 1316, House Bill 6470, File 923; Cal. 1317, House Bill 6512  
File 1428; Cal. 1318, House Bill 6525, File 1475; Cal. 1319, House Bill 6547  
File 1266; Cal. 1320, House Bill 6606, File 933; Cal. 1321, House Bill 6837  
File 1353; Cal. 1322, House Bill 6682, File 1352; Cal. 1323, House Bill 6885  
File 1348; Cal. 1324, House Bill 6939, File 1330; Cal. 1325, House Bill 6963