

HB 5760

PA 701

1971

Finance 210-211, 215-216

House 4571

Senate 3355

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

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M. Briggs: memories and they enjoy it. This hobby of ours has youngsters, right here in this meeting today, some of our younger members are here, and these are kids in their early twenties, they're interested too and they are going to carry it on, but we have a problem, if they arbitrarily tax these cars at a so called market value, it is going to drive the hobby out of the State. Now, in my own instance I have a '26 model T ford inaudible, I have rebuilt the thing twice so far, I'm proud of it, but I can always find some way to improve it. This car is registered in conformity of bill 1420. It's carrying antique plates and these antique plates strickly limits the use of this car. I can only use this car for exhibitions, parades and things of this type, and of course naturally I wouldn't use it in the winter time anyway, because I don't want to inaudible it, this car hasn't been out of my garage since the fall and it will not go out until the roads are dry and safe. I would not want to pay a higher tax on this car that I use so seldom, than on the car that I use every day. I can't imagine paying a \$100. property tax on this car that probably I will drive maybe 200 at the most miles in the course of the year. And, there are only approximately 3,000 antique cars in the State at the present time. There will not be more, there will be less, because these cars are destroyed by fire, they are destroyed in accidents and as the owners die off, very many times they are sold to a large Collectors, such as Hurrah, in Texas, and they leave the State and they leave this thing forever so, fellows, let's hang on this thing, let's keep a few cars that we do have and by passing this bill you would encourage the people to keep them on the Connecticut scene. Thank you very much.

Rep. Violette: Thank you Mr. Briggs. Any questions from members of the Committee. Hear none, thank you sir. Our next speaker is Mr. Frank Glista.

Frank Glista: I'm acting Field Supervisor of Connecticut Boating Commission. I'm speaking now in behalf of my Director Mr. Bernard Silicki. I want this Committee to know we are in favor of HB5760 which concerns THE USE OF GAS TAXES FOR ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER MARINE PURPOSES. If the Commission, and I'm speaking now of the boating Commission receives money from the Marine fuel taxes it would be used primarily to re-imburse the Towns at, and to strenghten the enforcement of boating laws. I want to cite one small example, last year in the last boating season the various municipalities in the State of Connecticut billed the Boating Commission to the extent of \$196,000. for their enforcement Activity. The Commission due to lack of funds was able only to reimburse them to the tune of \$52,700. If additional funds

F. Glista: were available to the Commission, we would probably establish a patrol on the Connecticut river under direct supervision or control of the State. Thank you.

Rep. Violette: Thank you sir. Any questions from members of the Committee. Hear none. Thank you sir.
At this point of our hearing, this is all the names I have registered as speakers this morning, but I will, Senator

Sen. Petroni: Mr. Chairman, both House and Senate Chairman and members of the Finance Committee. I didn't register because I wasn't here on time so it is very thoughtful of you to allow me to speak

Rep. Violette: Would you speak into the mike - just ahead.

Sen. Petroni: Yes. I would like to speak in favor of HB6355 which would exempt the municipalities from payment of a gasoline tax for governmental purposes. I received a call this morning from my first selectman, in Richfield, Mr. Mortimer Wilcox

Rep/Violette: Would you state your name for the record please.

R. Petroni: My name for the record is Romeo Petroni I'm a State Senator from the 24th district. Rep. Spain and we know Mr. Wilcox and he has been in government for many more years and is certainly one of my models of a good public servant and I know that when he called, I think on a sound point and I thought this morning when he called me, that I had better get up here, that is if I want to keep representing my district, and I'm here with the, to convince your Committee that we should approve that bill. I understand from what he said that forms take a great deal of time at this point and that his office spends a great deal of time, I think could be used for other more constructive purposes. Furthermore, I think there is a basic reason that we want to strenghten our towns and our cities in Connecticut and when we keep taxing them, I think we weaken them and I think the reverse should be true we should not be taken from them, we should try to see that they develop their own fiscal soundness and I think this is one small step in that direction, so I ask you to consider that bill in your deliberation. I also while I'm here I listened to Mr. Briggs speak on the antique cars, I did get a great deal of mail on that point. And, I think that again that the basic point here, it is a great hobby we have these shows in Richfield, the Lyons Club of Richfield sponsored the antique car show for I think Fairfield County and maybe the whole state, once a year in Richfield, and I think it is the greatest hobby and many people do great work in it and I think we would all be better off if we continue to sponsor

P. Hansen: are other states doing? N. Y. and Vermont don't have any tax on antiques. Mass. has a small tax that is being revised. Other collections of Historical importance are either not taxed, like furniture, stamps, books etc., or have tax relief like historical homes or industry. In summary to enjoy my antique hobby which in turn add much pleasure to the public in general as well as historical significance the need for tax limit is eminent and I recommend the passage of the bills as present to the legislature.

T. B. Bampton: Director of Board of Fisheries and Game. HB5760
AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF BOATING FACILITIES AND REGULATED PROGRAMS BY THE USE OF MARINE GAS TAXES.
One of the major programs of the Board of Fisheries and Game is the acquisition and development of boat launching sites which provides access to inland and marine waters. In large measure, this function has been supported by monies obtained from the sale of sporting licences and federal excise taxes on hunting and sport fishing equipment. Today there are 103 public boat launching sites under the Board's administrative control. Aside from a few areas, the available facilities are inadequate to satisfy the present, much less the future demand imposed by the growing number of persons who use boats for recreation. The current rapid rate of development of Connecticut's shore, lake and riverfront properties has created an urgent need to assure the availability of waters for recreational use of our present and future generations. A public responsibility exists and a method of financing new developments is needed. Enforcement of the boating laws has not been delegated to any one agency but rather to several with no provision for additional personnel or the specialized equipment which is required. The net result is that no agency has enthusiastically faced up to their responsibility. Adequate enforcement is not only desirable but is necessary. Further, while it is difficult to separate the many valid purposes for which boats are used, we believe sport fishing has significantly contributed to the use of inboard and outboard engines and thus it follows that a reasonable expenditure of these tax monies for the improvement of our inland and marine fisheries is justifiable. Connecticut boaters are estimated to have paid some \$1.8 million in marine fuel taxes in 1969. Connecticut law, by implication indicates that the tax paid on fuel used in boat engines is not to go into the highway fund since there is no provision in the law for boat owners to recover this tax money. In practice, however, few boat owners claim refunds and thus, all monies remaining are transferred into the highway fund. The demand that the unrefunded marine fuel tax monies be used for the improvement of boating facilities should be viewed

T. B. Bampton: from the standpoint that boaters are simply asking to pay their own way. Twenty-eight states now have programs allocating boaters fuel taxes for boat- and related uses - let's make Connecticut the 29th State to exercise good judgement and wisdom. The Board of Fisheries and Game registers in support of HB5760.

We the undersigned, although unable to attend the Hearing are very much interested in having the bill passed limiting taxation on an antique car to one hundred dollars. Signed by 16 persons as per list.

HB6840. Copies of testimony heard today on this bill will be transferred to the Transportation Committee.

SJR 20. Copies of testimony heard today on this bill will be transferred to the Government Administration Policy Committee.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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items for consideration today so it is going to require our usual high degree of cooperation.

RONALD SARASIN, 95th District:

Mr. Speaker, prior to moving the Consent Calendar, I would like to remove one item from page 5, single starred item at the top of the page, Calendar No. 1328, House Bill No. 6658, file 1499.

MR. SPEAKER:

Objection is noted and Calendar No. 1328 will be removed from the Consent Calendar.

RONALD SARASIN, 95th District:

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the joint committees favorable reports and passage of the two-starred items on the Consent Calendar, which are as follows:

On page 1, Calendar No. 1262, Substitute for House Bill No. 5760, An Act Authorizing the Treasurer to Replace Mutilated, Defaced, Destroyed, Stolen or Lost State Obligations, file 1425.

Calendar No. 1264, House Bill No. 7755, An Act Concerning Limitation of Reserve Fund for Fire Districts, file 1434.

Calendar No. 1267, Substitute for House Bill No. 8798, An Act Concerning Public Hearings of Proposed Layout of State Highways, file 1435.

Calendar No. 1268, House Bill No. 8947, An Act Concerning Deferred Terms Regarding Zoning Officials. File 1426.

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of the bill, as amended, signify by saying, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The ayes have it, the bill is passed.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, I move for suspension of the rules for immediate transmittal to the House, On cal. 786, Cal. 1172 and Cal. 677.

THE CHAIR:

If there is no objection, it is so-ordered.

SENATOR CALDWELL:

Mr. President, by agreement of the Minority and the Majority parties, may we take up on a Consent Motion, the following matters: I move for the adoption of the joint committee's favorable reports and the passage of the bills: On page two of the Calendar, 987, File No. 1125, Substitute House Bill 6484. An Act Concerning Personal Property Liens in Favor of Municipality 1101, File 1288, Substitute House Bill 7869, An Act Concerning State Pilots and Pilotage. Page 4, of the Calendar, Cal. 1190, File 1103, Sub House Bill 6709, An Act Concerning An Establishment of a Five Mile River Commission. Cal. 1196, File 1373, Sub House Bill 8671, An Act Concerning Acquisition of Case Mountain for use of A State Park. Cal. 1210, File 1425, Sub House Bill 5760, An Act Authorizing the Treasurer to Replace Mutilated, Defaced, Destroyed, Stolen or Lost State Obligations. Page 5, Cal. 1221, File 787, Sub House Bill 8334, An Act Concerning the Number of Resident State Policemen. Cal. 1224, File 930, House Bill 8453, An Act Concerning Military Funerals for National Guardsmen. Cal. 1230, File 1375, Sub House Bill 7929, An Act Concerning Second Taxing District of Norwalk. Cal. 1241, File 1471, Sub House Bill 5046. An Act Concerning Holding and Sale of Bonds to the State and the Pension Fund of the Teachers Retirement System. Page 6, Cal. 1242, File 1481