

SB 1155

PA 736

1971

General Law 499-500, 511-512

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House 5165

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Senate 2709-2710

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL
LAW**

**PART 2
297-629**

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10:30 A.M.

Senator Strada: Thank you. Are there any other legislators?

Rep. Peter Locke, 49th District: I would like to speak in favor of Bill 7237 and I have testimony written by Attorney O'Connell who couldn't be here this morning because he had to be in court. Also 7239, by the town of Stafford for certain tax liens that were filed late, this would validate these tax liens, it was a mistake and they were overlooked. There will be further testimony on this by our First Selectman. Also, in favor of 7542, AN ACT VALIDATING SUBDIVISIONS IN THE TOWN OF ASHFORD CREATED BEFORE JULY 1, 1970. I have written testimony from the Planning and Zoning Commission of the town of Ashford for this bill. Also, I would like to speak against S.B. 475. I represent four small towns, two of which do have volunteer ambulance services, and this would be in jeopardy to them. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Rep. Eloise Green, 93rd District: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I'll be very brief because I know there are many people here to speak on the subjects of the volunteer ambulance societies. I represent three towns, Roxbury, Middlebury and Southbury, and in those three towns, it involves four volunteer ambulance associations. It would cause a great hardship to these volunteer ambulance associations if they were to be put under the full jurisdictions of this act. I would be perfectly happy if you would just delete those brackets at the bottom of the first page and the first sentence on the second page. I don't know whether it was an error that it went in, there certainly was nothing in the description of the bill until you actually read the bill to indicate that this bill was as far-reaching as it is, and I would certainly hope that you would give the volunteer societies a chance. Very briefly, also, I would like to speak in favor of H.B. 8272. There is just a minor change in there to include the American Heart Association in the immunity bill that was passed a few years ago. Thank you very much.

Senator Strada: Thank you. Senator Ives?

Senator Alden Ives, 32nd District: Mr. Chairman, members of the General Law Committee...very briefly, I think you must have Ives Bill Day because you have five of my bills before you this morning. S.B. 1155 which calls for the incorporating of political committees. The way the bill is drawn, it may be too broad but my intent in the bill is to allow town committees, established town committees, to be incorporated and still be exempt under the political contribution law. There is a great hazard to any member who volunteers to serve on a political town committee because if something happens as a result of it or of an event, he can be personally liable, and because of the political contribution prohibition, no town committee in the state is incorporated, and so what we try to do in this

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bill is to exempt them from the corrupt practices act and by allowing this type of corporation to be formed. S. B. 882 would void building permits upon the failure of a contractor to file an inventory of equipment. I think we still have a statement of purpose only and we'll try to have it to you before the end of the week. The intent here is that in a good many cases, these contractors are moving their equipment around the state and that the assessors cannot locate the equipment, and the idea was here that when a building permit was issued, the contractor would have to file a list of his equipment on the job with the municipality. S. B. 317 is AN ACT TO PERMIT 18 YEAR OLDS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS. This is the heart of my 18 year old packages. Undoubtedly, the right to vote to the 18 year old is coming. The right to vote is a privilege, the right to make contracts is a responsibility, and if they are going to have the privilege of voting, they should have the rights and responsibilities that go along with it. S.B. 512 allows dry cleaning establishments and laundries a-fter a given period to donate unclaimed equipment to charity. S.B. 225 is AN ACT INCORPORATING TROTТА LANE association, you will hear from the people when you call the bill later, but very basically it forms a corporation to allow them to build a road to town specifications and so the town can then take over the road.

Rep. Webber: Senator, excuse me...on your #317, we note that the bill is designated for Elections...or the Elections Committee.....

Senator Ives: I'm sorry, that's where it really should be....

Rep. Webber: ...but, we have it here, and while I have you for a minute, I'm wondering whether or not you wouldn't....

Senator Ives: If you bring out a favorable, I'd just as soon have it before this Committee.....

Rep. Webber: My question to you, Senator, is whether or not you would care to broaden that bill to allow the 18 year old to have the right to participate in any kind of an activity from which he is presently excluded, and not being recognized as an adult.

Senator Ives: I personally would favor it, Rep. Webber. The only reason that we limited it to contracts here was, without making a general statement, without reviewing the entire statutes, I didn't know exactly what we were getting in to, and if we have time, I think full rights, powers, and responsibilities at all areas should go to the 18 year olds.

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procedure is very similar to that of the filing of a mechanic's lien. However, there is no provision for termination of the lien and H.B. 878 provides for the termination or removal of a notice of vessel lien similarly to releases of other security instruments. Now I would like to ask that an additional sentence be inserted, a second sentence, as follows: The fees for this certificate and the procedure and forms to be used for the same, shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the State;.....so that we can administratively establish a form for termination certificate. I'll give the proposed amendment to the Clerk. On S. B. 881, we've made a change in section 49-55a, or we have suggested a change which would permit a Lienor in possession, that is a repairer, who has possession of the vessel, we have given them an extension of time to seven days from 72 hours in order to give them adequate time to notify the owner of the vessel as well as any other lienors of the fact that he has possession of the vessel. It would seem to me that 72 hours is not an adequate time for him to give that notice, and we would ask that that change be made in the 49-55a. Now, also, I should point out to the Committee, I know that Senator Ives has commented on this bill, I spoke to him after he left the hearing. S. B. 1155, this is Senator Ives' bill and it is a rather radical change in the corrupt practices act of our state. Now, we are in the process of redrafting the campaign financing law, and we're trying to close as many loopholes as possible in the law. We certainly do not want corporations to come in the back door by designating themselves as political committees. The cornerstone of campaign financing both on the state and federal level is that corporations shall not directly or indirectly finance a political campaign. However, this prohibition does work a hardship and we encountered it. There was a district political committee, a senatorial district committee in the last election, who incorporated. I think it was the only one in the state, and they had to dissolve themselves in order to participate without violation of the corrupt practices act. Now it would seem to me that the language of this bill should be highly restrictive, it should be limited only to duly authorized town committees, existing and authorized under the rules of the particular party. I can see, I don't know whether any town committees presently are incorporated. I can understand that a town committee might see the need to incorporate in order to limit its liability, but I do not feel that this privilege should be extended to any association or committee other than a duly organized town, or perhaps district, committee. I would be opposed to extending any exemption to an incorporated political committee because I think that would be an invitation to corporations getting back into the political arena in the area of campaign financing, which is one of the major evils which our campaign

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financing law is directed against. Thank you very much for your attention.

Senator Strada: Mr. Hammer, did I understand you to say that you are rewriting the corrupt practices act?

Mr. Hammer: Well, we are in the process of drafting the campaign financing law.

Senator Strada: Are you taking into consideration this problem? Has it been considered at all?

Mr. Hammer: It hand't been until we found out about this bill. It was not incorporated in our present draft, but we certainly will take it into consideration in drafting it.

Senator Strada: Will you check with your office and let us know if you intend to consider it, if not, do you intend to do anything about it. It might save us time with this bill.

Mr. Hammer: I'll be very happy to, Senator, I will. Thank you.

Senator Strada: A. J. Flanagan?

Andrew Flanagan, representing the Connecticut State Firemen's Association: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am speaking in opposition to the manner in which S. B. 475 has been written and before you for consideration. As far as the Fire service is concerned, and this is your volunteer ambulance services and other non-profit organizations, the only additions in this bill, and we have no objections to, is their defining the manner between an ambulance and an invalid carrier. What we do object to is the matter of the elimination of the brackets" or the chapter shall not apply to any ambulance service which provides transportation for patients as a public service without profit." This sentence has been in this act since its inception back in 1965. We see no reason why the exemptions now should be denied to any volunteer group, and you have 127 volunteer groups or organizations that operate ambulances non-profit. This takes in your volunteer fire service, it takes in your civic clubs the Lions, it takes in your veterans organizations, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and it also involves all of your large industrial plants throughout the state. Therefore, I would like to have this Committee consider this opposition and report unfavorably on the bill as it is written at the present time, Mr. Chairman. If I may, speaking in favor of H. B. 8272, this is under the matter of liability for emergency medical assistance, or the good Samaritan bill. Only four words being added to the present bill, and this is on Programs or Courses that your ambulance

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for H. B. No. 8485, An Act Concerning Retirement of State's Attorneys, File No. 1642; Calendar No. 1479, substitute for H. B. No. 6372, An Act Concerning Charitable Remainder Trusts, File 1676; Calendar No. 1481, H. B. No. 8125, An Act Concerning Notice of Sessions for the Admission of Electors, File No. 1677; on page 2, Calendar No. 1488, substitute for H. B. No. 6841, An Act Concerning the Application of The Cigarette Tax to Unlicensed Person Selling Untaxed Cigarettes, File No. 1658; Calendar No. 1492, substitute for H. B. No. 7996, An Act Concerning the Registration of Snowmobiles for Tax Purposes, File No. 1667; Calendar No. 1495, substitute for H. B. No. 9221, An Act Concerning Minor Parties, File No. 1662; Calendar No. 1498, H. B. No. 5174, An Act Concerning Limitation of Mechanic's Lien, File No. 1636; Calendar No. 1504, substitute for H. B. No. 6843, An Act Concerning Refunds of the Motor Fuel Tax, File No. 1683; Calendar No. 1506, substitute for H. B. No. 8852, An Act Concerning Equipment Requirements for Motor Vehicles Used in Making Highway Safety Motion Pictures, File No. 1682; Calendar No. 1531, S. B. No. 0676, An Act Concerning the Definition of Officer Under the Motor Vehicle Statutes, File No. 48; on page 3, Calendar No. 1532, substitute for S. B. No. 705, An Act Concerning Dealers Exempted from the Law Relating to Motor Vehicle Dealers and Repairers, File No. 1412; Calendar No. 1537, substitute for S. B. No. 1067, An Act Concerning Use of Revised Form of Absentee Ballot, File No. 1549; Calendar No. 1538, S. B. No. 1155, An Act Concerning the Incorporation of Political Committees, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A", File No. 1055; Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of these items.

THE SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Are there any individual objections? Hearing none, all those in favor indicate by saying aye. Opposed?

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THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to the passage of these bills? Hearing none, said bills are declared passed.

THE CLERK:

CAL. NO. 734. File 1055. Favorable report of the joint committee on General Law. Senate Bill 1155. An Act Concerning The incorporation of Political Committees.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. The Clerk has an amendment.

THE CLERK:

SENATE AMENDMENT A, offered by Senator Ives;

In line 21, delete the words, incorporated political committee or, and before the word Town insert the word Incorporated.

In line 22, after the word committee delete the, and add the following: Established Under Section 9-392 of the general statutes.

Delete the remainder of line 22 and all of lines 23,24,25 and 26.

In line 36 delete the words political committee or and the comma after the word committee and add the following: Established under section 9-392 of the general statutes.

Delete the remainder of line 36 and all of lines 37,38,39 and 40

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, I move the adoption of the amendment. The bill as it came out of committee, in effect allowed incorporation of town committees and other political committees in existence for five years. The amendment limits the incorporation strictly to Town Committees.

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THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment?

SENATOR STRADA:

Mr. President, this was the original intent of the committee and I support the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the amendment? If not, all those in favor of adoption of the amendment signify by saying, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted, ruled technical. You may proceed with the bill, as amended.

SENATOR IVES:

Mr. President, in effect the remarks on the amendment apply to the bill. Because, the bill now, in effect, allows a political Town Committee to become incorporated and exempts them under the Corrupt Practices Act. In effect, they can make political donations.

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage of the bill, as amended. Will you remark further? If not, all those in favor of the bill signify by saying, "aye". Opposed, "nay". The ayes have it. The bill is passed.

SENATOR SMITH:

Mr. President, as a member of the prevailing side, I'd like to move for reconsideration of Substitute Senate Bill 967. Cal. No. 1327. It was passed yesterday on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Would you please explain the bill, under reconsideration?

SENATOR SMITH: