

HB 8561

<PA 741>

1971

Public Health + Safety: 725-726 2

House: 3648 (Consent) 1

Senate: 3403-3403 (Consent) 1

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**JOINT
STANDING
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HEARINGS**

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TUESDAY

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that there was some ambiguity in the existing law. Actually no health department prior to the application from Hamden had applied so this facet of the existing law was never really tested in these terms. So the Senator, Representative Chagnon introduced this bill to, for one thing, to correct this ambiguity. And we as a Department of Mental Health support this correction, or this amendment to the existing act.

There is one feature of the bill that you have before you that we would suggest not be deleted that was in the original mental health, or psychiatric clinic for children, or adults, and it says, Said Department, I'm looking at line, starting on line 40, of the bill, "said department shall base any such grant of funds on the amount" and what has been taken out is "of service provided to children the age of sixteen". This does not necessarily limit those services to children under sixteen, but this shall be a consideration when grants are, are allocated based on whatever is appropriated to this funding mechanism for the support of voluntary non-profit or town enterprises providing services for children in their community. And I see really no basic concern with this. As far as the Department is concerned, it doesn't change in any way those programs that have developed over the years since 1955. It does broaden the base. For, it, for instance, the original law required that the director of such a service should be a psychiatrist. This provides for the employment of a psychiatrist but in many instances we find that there are other professional disciplines within the mental health field as psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, who can in effect provide the administrative over view of the development of such a service. And we feel that this would possibly enhance the capability of many communities to design a service where they wouldn't be able to get the psychiatrist-director which should invest the time. We of the Department would certainly insist that there be psychiatric personnel on the staff to assume responsibility, medical responsibility for those children that are receiving and in need of specific psychiatric therapy.

I think that we as a Department would support this bill although we as a Department did not introduce it, or suggest its introduction. And we feel it's a sound approach to the development of service delivery systems for children in the State of Connecticut.

Rep. Cohen: Any questions of the speaker? Thank you very much.

Atty. Steven Humphrey: I represent the Tobacco Institute and I'm speaking in opposition to H.B. 8561 (AN ACT PROHIBITING CIGARETTE VENDING MACHINES IN HOSPITALS). Two quick comments. One, I would say let the hospitals decide individually whether or not they want to allow cigarette machines or vending machines

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in hospitals. And second of all, if you're going to just prohibit it in a public place, what you're saying is that the doctors and nurses in their own rooms can have a vending, a vending machine, but you're not going to have it for the public. And I don't think that, I don't think this is legislation which is needed. The hospitals are going to act on their own and want to prohibit it, let, let the hospitals do it, and leave it to them. Thank you.

Rep. Cohen: Any questions of the speaker? Thank you very much. Gail Chandler.

Gail Chandler, Administrator of the Hamden Mental Health Service: I'm a psychologist. I'm speaking in connection with bill 8225 which Mr. Prosser just addressed himself to. I'm speaking from the same point of view as Mr. Prosser.

The bill before you is supported in the strongest way by the Hamden Mental Health Commission, the body appointed by the Mayor of Hamden in February, 1970, and charged with establishing a mental health service in Hamden supported by Hamden taxes and providing mental health services to children and youth of Hamden. I might point out the Hamden Mental Health Service established by that Commission and put into operation September of last year, is the only municipally funded mental health clinic in the State of Connecticut. Our legislative council has underwritten the entire budget for this service but we also applied for assistance under section 17-225 which the bill before you amends.

Our interest in the present legislation stems from a desire to see our own clinic prosper and to encourage other like-minded communities to develop and enlarge mental health services for children in a manner similar to the way we have in Hamden.

As a municipal service, we desire to be enabled to apply for funds from the State Department of Mental Health directly, and not through a "director of health", as the present statute would have us. Our reason is simple. In Hamden the Mental Health Service is constituted as a separate department of the town government, not as a division of the health department. We believe that the towns ought to have the right to provide mental health service in this fashion if they so desire. The present bill will accomplish this, while specifying at the same time that communities ought to be large enough to employ a director of health - that is, at least 40,000 in population - before attempting to establish an independent mental health service.

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HOUSE**

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MR. SARASIN (95th):

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Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the Joint Committees' favorable reports and passage of the two star items on the Consent Calendar, which are as follows: Calendar No. 1072, substitute for H.B. No. 5848, An Act Authorizing Towns to Compensate Their Clerks on a Salary Basis, File No. 1171; Calendar No. 1074, substitute for H.B. No. 8557, An Act Concerning Termination of Workmen's Compensation Benefits, File No. 1175; Calendar No. 1075, substitute for H.B. No. 8561, An Act Concerning Blood Tests for Persons Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, File No. 1172; Calendar No. 1076, substitute for H.B. No. 6807, An Act Concerning Social Purpose Investments of Savings Banks, File No. 1185.

I move the adoption of these items.

THE SPEAKER:

Are there further objections? If not, the question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable reports and passage of the bill. All those in favor indicate by saying aye. Opposed? The bills are PASSED.

MR. SARASIN (95th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for suspension of the rules and passage of the resolutions on today's Consent Calendar which are as follows: on page 3.

THE SPEAKER:

Hearing no objection, the rules are suspended.

MR. SARASIN (95th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Calendar No. 1151, House Resolution No. 87, Resolution Commending Margaret Straat Bredice; Calendar No. 1152, House Resolution No. 88, Resolution Congratulating Abraham Weldon, Susan Fearing, Pamela Cross, Frank Gains and Marcia Fuller who have been cited in "Who's Who in American High Schools."

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File 1186; Cal. 643, House Bill 6904, File 1582; Cal. 1150, House Bill 7901
File 1342; Cal. 1192, House Bill 7148, File 1334; Cal. 1204, House Bill 7256
File 1393; Cal. 1214, House Bill 7014, File 1423; Cal. 1226, House Bill 8914
File 1073; Cal. 1257, House Bill 7048, File 1464; Cal. 1262, House Bill 8271
File 1474; Cal. 1267, House Bill 9020, File 1457; Cal. 1271, House Bill 5049
File 1628; Cal. 1272, House Bill 5415, File 1632; Cal. 1273, House Bill 5627
File 1616; Cal. 1274, House Bill 5709, File 1630; Cal. 1275, House Bill 5714
File 1575; Cal. 1276, House Bill 5834, File 1569; Cal. 1277, House Bill 5938
File 1585; Cal. 1278, House Bill 6210, File 1627; Cal. 1279, House Bill 6367
File 1565; Cal. 1280, House Bill 6561, File 1555; Cal. 1281, House Bill 6674
File 1586; Cal. 1285, House Bill 7077, File 1556; Cal. 1287, House Bill 8272
File 1566; Cal. 1289, House Bill 8578, File 1579; Cal. 1290, House Bill 8799
File 1640; Cal. 1293, House Bill 9246, File 1638; Cal. 1294, House Bill 9256
File 1637; Cal. 1295, House Bill 9001, File 737; Cal. 629, House Bill 7642
File 638; Cal. 721, House Bill 7802, File 1127; Cal. 755, House Bill 8761
File 773; Cal. 802, House Bill 8658, File 906; Cal. 964, House Bill 6197
File 1359; Cal. 975, House Bill 7609, File 876; Cal. 990, House Bill 8561
File 1172; Cal. 1041, House Bill 9196, File 1232.

Mr. President, I move for the adoption of all those bills, I move for suspension of the rules, first of all, for consideration of those which were not single starred or were not double starred rather.

THE CHAIR:

All those in favor of suspension of the rules indicate by saying, "aye"
All those opposed? Suspension is granted.

SENATOR CALDWELL: