

HB 9252

PA 816 (Vetoed)

1971

Appropriations -

House 5351-5366

Senate 3402

-

H-119

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

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

Monday, June 7, 1971

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THE CLERK:

Page 18, Cal. 1482. House Bill 9252. AN ACT CONCERNING
CHILD DAY CARE SERVICES. File 1672.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The lady from the 109th.

MRS. GRISWOLD: (109th)

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark.

MRS. GRISWOLD: (109th)

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment.

THE CLERK:

House Amendment Schedule "A", offered by Mrs. Griswold
of the 109th. Lines 28, 29 and 30, strike out the words "the
Commissioner of Finance and Control shall establish"

MRS. GRISWOLD: (109th)

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can save this body a little time
by explaining the amendment instead of having the Clerk read it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Unless there is objection, please proceed.

MRS. GRISWOLD: (109th)

Mr. Speaker, this amendment changes the place of control
of a new office which we are hoping to establish which is the
Office of Child Day Care Services. In this bill it has been
placed under the control of the Commissioner of Finance and Control.

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This amendment will place this office with the Commissioner of DCA. This amendment also eliminates the price tag on this bill. I move passage of this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the amendment. The gentleman of the 165th.

MR. COLLINS: (165th)

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment. As the gracious lady has pointed out, the purpose of the amendment is twofold. One is to transfer control of the day care from Finance and Control to the Department of Community Affairs. The second purpose seeks to take the appropriation out. Mr. Speaker, it would appear clear that the Department of Community Affairs is not the proper agency for this particular function. This matter was studied thoroughly by the Committee on Appropriations. It was their recommendation that the DAY Care people—maybe the gracious lady would put her microphone down so I wouldn't pick up her conversation. The Committee reviewed this, heard the testimony and made the decision and I would indicate that it is a raised committee bill, that the function and responsibility that this bill and body should go into the Department of Finance and Control. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this is a good recommendation and it remains a good recommendation. And secondly, this particular bill which would transfer this function, or this particular amendment which would transfer this function from Finance and Control to welfare is not in accordance with the

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very recent report that the Governor had made by the Flying Feds, so-called Flying Feds, which indicated that if any department it should be either Finance and Control or welfare. It is my understanding that at present this particular function is broken up in both Welfare and Finance and Control. The intent of this bill is to transfer to one department, that department should clearly be Finance and Control. As far as taking out the appropriation, Mr. Speaker, I submit that is a phantom. It is an attempt to make the bill more palatable by taking out an appropriation. It is rather obvious that to operate an office such as this, you would need an appropriation. There is kicking around this place an Attorney General's opinion which indicates that if the General Assembly passes legislation which requires the expenditure of funds, the fact that it does not have a dollar figure in it will not prevent that from being implemented. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, the amendment is a false amendment. It is one that does not carry out the intent either of the sponsors who hope to make it more palatable by taking out the money nor the recommendation of the unanimous Appropriations Committee which saw in its wisdom to leave it with Finance and Control. I oppose the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the amendment. Rep. Gillies.

MR. GILLIES: (75th)

Mr. Speaker, at the time the bill was being drafted, careful consideration was given to where it should be placed. A check was made with the Welfare Commissioner and his office to

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determine whether or not it would be his desire that the implementation of the program should be with his department and he specifically requested that it not be placed in his department and we have a memorandum to that effect. It was for this reason that we and indeed in discussing this matter further with his office, it was determined that he had made arrangements with DCA for the operation of these particular programs. And it was at his specific request that this particular program be placed in this department. He felt that this would be the best arrangement. It will enable us to receive Federal monies because of this arrangement. DCA will simply bill the Welfare Department for the services which are being provided and the Federal Government will reimburse in large sums of money to support it. So, it is the proper place to put it. It has, as I say, been carefully reviewed by the Welfare Department and the new Meskill appointee to the Welfare Department and it is his recommendation that we have implemented.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on House A. Mr. Tudan

MR. TUDAN: (42nd)

Mr. Speaker, I would say that Rep. Gillies is absolutely right. That unless they lost their signals somewhere along the line that a. I wholeheartedly support what's been said.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on House A. The gentleman from the 118th.

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MR. AJELLO: (118th)

Mr. Speaker, I move that when the vote is taken it be taken by roll call.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question is on a roll call vote on House A. All those in favor will indicate by saying AYE. A roll call vote will be ordered.

The House will please come to order. The members please take your seats. Will the staff please clear the aisles and come to the well. Will you remark further on House Amendment A. The lady from the 101st.

MRS. MILLER: (101st)

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that my constituents are very eager and interested in. It seems to me that people in communities naturally would turn to the Department of Community Affairs if they are interested in day care centers. But I am simply baffled by the deletion of the appropriation on this bill and I would ask the question, through you to the proponent of the amendment, why was the appropriation deleted. Is this in some other department budget that you are planning to pass.

MRS. GRISWOLD: (109th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the lady on the other side of the aisle. The appropriation was deleted because in this austere year it is thought that we could set up the child day care center office under DCA with funds that are in DCA now. DCA knows how to handle these things and we can amend it that way.

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deputy SPEAKER:

The lady from the 164th.

MRS. CURTIS: (164th)

Mr. Speaker, may I answer that question. The funds for day care will come through the Department of Welfare this year because you will have a matching grant through the Federal Government of approximately 75 percent. This is why it should go through the Department of Finance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. The gentleman from the 46th.

MR. DONNELLY: (46th)

Mr. Speaker, there was extensive testimony, discussion and consideration of this matter in the Committee on Government Administration and Policy that raised the bill that appears before you in your files. And one of the difficulties, apparently in getting the day care centers off the ground in recent years has been the inability of the various departments concerned with their operation to agree and the compromise is the vesting of the power, the creating of the office in the Department of Finance and Control was the one place that all the parties to the dispute could agree on to go. Now here we are faced with a amendment that is going to reopen Pandora's Box and get us back into the dispute as to who is going to operate and who is going to do what. You sure all know that the Departments of Education, Welfare, Community Affairs and Mental Health have an interest in the operation of these and Finance and control for the monies

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have an interest in the operation of these day care centers. As Mr. Stevens put it so well, the final bill represents a compromise that stands a chance of getting the day care centers off the ground. I urge us all to defeat this amendment so that we can get some progress in the establishment and operation of day care centers in this State.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The lady from the 109th for the second time on House A.

MRS. GRISWOLD: (109th)

Mr. Speaker, may I point out that this amendment would put into one department those affairs of the day care centers which have been under four Commissioners. It is simply a question of whether this new office which will consolidate all day care is to be under Finance and Control or Community Affairs. I feel and the people, the grass roots people in our bigger cities, all our big cities, feel that Community Affairs, which is an operating department and does know by this time about day care and cares about day care, can handle this coordinating office better than the Commissioner of Finance and Control. As far as matching monies is concerned for the Federal Government, either office, under either office, I am told Mr. ?, Mr. Donahue and Mr. White that we will receive the same money, either office, Finance and Control or Community Affairs will channel the matching money to Welfare and the Federal Government will match 75 percent. I urge passage of this amendment for the sake of the people who are working in day care centers all year round.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. The gentleman from the 148th.

MR. BROWN: (148th)

Mr. Speaker, very briefly. I would like to rise in support of those who would like the Department of Community Affairs to continue administering the funds for day care. I think that that is extremely important because DCA has built up a great amount of confidence with the people for whom this particular provision is made; people who are here in the gallery from our bigger cities who are very much intent on having the Department of Community Affairs which has had experience, which has had concern, which has had interest in these people and I think that every effort should be made to allow this agency with its experience to continue this. And one other thing, Mr. Speaker, ^{un}/fortunately when we think about the possibility of this being administered by the Welfare Department I am afraid that there are many of the people who fear that day care is not only for people on welfare but they are for people throughout the length and the breadth of the State and they fear the possibility of day care being under Welfare. We talked with the Commissioner of Welfare, I understand there is no problem with them with respect to DCA continuing to administer this fund. I urge this body to give this very serious consideration and lets keep day care with the DCA.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the amendment. The gentleman of the 120th.

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MR. POVINELLI: (120th)

Mr. Speaker, rising in opposition to the amendment. If there ever was a state agency that shouldn't be responsible for day care centers it is DCA. Speaking for my city of Milford where we have a day care center, if there ever was a state agency that my day care center had to go through a maze of red tape and bureaucratic structure that pushed them around and abused them and have gone over the route four and five times just to give a part of the funding which they were promised originally, DCA was responsible. And Mr. Speaker, if you want to do something good for the decency of day care centers, defeat this amendment because DCA can't do any good for the day care centers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. The lady from the 50th.

MRS. BECK: (50th)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to just very briefly ask this body to review for just a second the background of why Mrs. Griswold has proposed this amendment. Those of you who served on Government Administration and Policy may recall that Rep. Truex and I, Senator Hammer and Senator Smith had proposed a bill to coordinate the day care services. That bill was subsequently worked over, compromises were worked out and as a result of the compromise a piece of legislation was brought out proposing that day care be coordinated and that it be placed under the Department of Finance and Control. Now the reason for that step was to insure that all agencies, present agencies be coordinated with

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in one single jurisdiction. I would like to point out to this Body that during the process of that negotiation the State Development Commission, I should say Committee, had an opportunity to meet with the State Department of Community Affairs and they have assured the State Development Committee that the funds which this group seeks to insure will be available, absolutely will be available to the Department of Community Affairs, that contracts will be worked out with the Welfare Department. The basic issue before this Body tonight, therefore is not the insurance of these funds but the insurance that day care services will be properly and coherently administered. We have two choices, DCA or Finance and Control. I can insure this Body that Senator Hammer and I have had an opportunity informly in the Halls of this Body to meet with representatives of day care bodies at the grass roots who have pleaded with us to keep this coordination within the Department of Community Affairs. This was after the bill was brought out of Government Administration and Policy. I for one gave my word that not only would we do everything possible to keep this within Community Affairs but that secondly the State Development Committee would follow this very, very closely. A number of us have committments to see to it that this be properly administered. I would further point out to you that if we took it out of DCA we would not have the coordination with the activities of DCA in social services, the coordination in finding jobs and providing other services. Therefore, we are responding to a genuine attempt to meet the needs of one, coordination and

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two, experience which exists only with DCA and I would urge this Body most strongly to support this amendment which has been provided in good faith to meet the requests of people at the grass roots and to have the support of the State Development Committee and those of us who are most urgently concerned with child day care services. I urge this Body please to keep the services of day care within the Department of Community Affairs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the amendment. The gentleman from the 38th.

MR. LOWELL: (38th)

Mr. Speaker, speaking as a member of Welfare and Humane Institutions Committee, we have over the last probably six to eight years struggled with the problem of day care centers. Community Affairs has had its opportunity and completely ignored the need for day care centers and created a situation of bureaucratic confusion to ignore the need for day care centers. I think they have had their opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and at this particular time we have to allow an agency which has a disinterested view to get this program under way and fully in operation as opposed to the bureaucratic confusion and delay which we have seen in Community Affairs. We are interested in implementing day care programs not confusing it. Community Affairs has had its opportunity. Today we have an opportunity to give it to an agency to get it on the road and fully operational in a short time. The Finance and Control has no bureau-

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cratic interest in this particular thing. It is interested in seeing that it operates and we want this operating. We aren't interested in a whole lot of confusion and delay and if you will give it to Finance and Control and defeat this amendment, we will have day care centers that are fully operational, much quicker than under Community Affairs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on House A. The gentleman from the 155th.

MR. EDWARDS: (155th)

Through you, sir, a question to Rep. Lowell. Do I understand that for those communities who feel they have been well-served in their day care needs through DCA personnel that they would continue to be as well-served if not better if this is maintained under the Dept. of Finance and Control.

MR. LOWELL: (38th)

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why Finance and Control won't take on the good features of what has existed and unscramble the confusion and administrative delay and that they will be presently served and in the future served as well as they ever were in the past under DCA.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Are you prepared to vote. Will members please be seated. The Chamber will either come to order or we won't proceed. Will you remark further. The lady from the 101st.

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MRS. MILLER: (101st)

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For the second time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point to Sec. 2b where it says - there shall continue to be a child day care council. I am surprised that if the change is going to be made to DCA that an amendment wasn't put in to change the Commissioner of Finance and Control as Chairman - the way this bill specifies it. It would seem to me that because the Commissioner of Labor, Community Affairs, Welfare and Mental Health and the Secretary of the State Board of Education are all on this Commission that possibly the best solution would be to stay where the money is and possibly defeat the amendment and keep the appropriation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Further remarks. The gentleman from the 42nd.

MR. TUDAN: (42nd)

Those gentleman may be where the money is but they have absolutely no conception what this program is all about. Mr. Speaker, I am making reference to the remarks made by Commissioner White and Commissioner Dorsey. Now over 80 percent of the youngsters handled by day care centers is handled by DCA. The problem that we have right now is with Federal Funds. This amendment is in complete agreement with both Commissioner White and Commissioner Dorsey. They both agree it belongs with DCA and that's where it should be.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Are you prepared to vote. The lady from the 128th.

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MRS. PEARSON: (128th)

Mr. Speaker, I assume that we are talking about the state statues as they are now worded. And as they are now worded in the Connecticut Law Journal, on April 14, 1970, Page 11, there is an opinion here from the Attorney General addressed to the Honorable LeRoy Jones, Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs at that particular time. Commissioner Jones' question to the Attorney General - Is a municipality eligible to be served by a day care center funded by the Department of Community Affairs through a community action, If the municipality has not undertaken a program for the preparation of a CDAP. The question is answered in the negative. I say that if we want to fund day care centers we must not put them under the Department of Community Affairs because many of the communities do not have a CDAP and therefore you are neglecting the children who do need the day care centers. I state from the Attorney General's opinion that this amendment is in error.

MR. TUDAN: (42nd)

Mr. Speaker, point of order.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Has the lady concluded her remarks. Are you prepared to vote. Take your seats. The machine will be opened. Has every member voted and is your vote properly recorded. The machine will be closed and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

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THE CLERK:

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| Total Number Voting | 171 |
| Necessary for Adoption | 86 |
| Those Voting Yea | 91 |
| Those Voting Nay | 80 |
| Absent and Not Voting | 6 |

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

House Amendment A IS ADOPTED. Will you remark further on the bill as amended. The lady from the 23rd.

MRS. TRUEX: (23rd)

Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry for the confusion but I would like to add my support to the bill. I am not happy in where the final decision has been made that it should be put in the Department of Community Affairs for a number of reasons because it was the feeling as we worked on this problem in Hartford about ten months before the session started that the Department of Community Affairs had lagged in the implementation of day care and it had dragged its feet terribly and that in order to get this off the ground that it should be put in a new environment and for this reason Finance and Control was felt to be the most logical place and it had the agreement of the persons concerned in the Greater Hartford Area. As I say, I would have preferred to see the control within that area but I certainly rise in support of the bill because day care is very much needed throughout the State of Connecticut particularly in the larger cities. The need for supervised day care is growing every day as the number of working mothers increases and the number of mothers who have small children increases from year to year. I urge

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everyone in the House on both sides of the aisle to think of this carefully and in spite of the division of opinion on the earlier vote, I would urge that we would consider the overall problem of day care and vote in support of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further on the bill as amended. The gentleman from the 42nd.

MR. TUDAN: (42nd)

The lady from Wethersfield is absolutely right.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Will you remark further. If not, the question is on acceptance and passage of the bill as amended by House Amendment Schedule A. All those in favor will indicate by saying AYE. Opposed. THE BILL IS PASSED.

THE CLERK:

Page 7 at the bottom, Cal. 1112, Sub. for House Bill 6188. AN ACT CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1972.

THE SPEAKER:

The Chair recognizes the Dean of the House, Representative Rubin Cohen. Will the members please give him their attention.

MR. COHEN: (59th)

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

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