

SB508

PA836

1971

House

5970

(1)

Senate

2880

(1)

Electors

106, 117, 121

(3)

(5)

**H-120**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
1971**

**VOL. 14  
PART 13  
5555-6226**

Wednesday, June 9, 1971

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and call Calendar No. 1565, the third item on page 8?

djh

THE CLERK:

On page 8, Calendar No. 1565, substitute for S. B. No. 508, An Act Concerning the Appointment of the Head Moderator for Elections and Primaries.

MR. TACINELLI (108th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

THE SPEAKER:

Will you remark?

MR. TACINELLI (108th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill, Mr. Speaker, provides for the Registrars of Voters to appoint a Head Moderator either from his list of appointed moderators or any other elector of his town. The bill changes that part of the section that states that the moderator of the first district shall be head moderator. I urge passage.

THE SPEAKER:

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

MR. MAHANEY (92nd):

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to have the Clerk refer back to page 15, Calendar No. 1650, if he would please call that matter.

THE CLERK:

On page 15, Calendar No. 1650, substitute for H. B. No. 5052, An Act Concerning the Valuation, Taxation and Registration of Vessels.

THE SPEAKER:

The Clerk has called on page 15, Calendar No. 1650.

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CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## THE CLERK:

The following bills were passed on a Consent Motion by Senator Caldwell with the approval of the Minority Leader;

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: Substitute House Bill 8682. House Bill 5854. JUDICIARY: Substitute House Bill 7495. House Bill 5662; Substitute House Bill 851. GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: Senate Bill 652; Senate Bill 1145; JUDICIARY Senate Bill 1788; Senate Bill 805; Substitute Senate Bill 1093; Substitute Senate Bill 868; Substitute Senate Bill 1441; BANKS AND REGULATED ACTIVITIES: Substitute Senate Bill 467; GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: Senate Bill 1833; JUDICIARY Substitute Senate Bill 1296; TRANSPORTATION: Senate Bill 1115; Substitute Senate Bill 255; ELECTIONS: Substitute Senate Bill 508; JUDICIARY: Substitute Senate Bill 1022; Substitute Senate Bill 1543; TRANSPORTATION: Substitute Senate Bill 1807; JUDICIARY Substitute Senate Bill 550; substitute senate bill 823; JUDICIARY: Senate Bill 898. TRANSPORTATION Substitute Senate Bill 807; FINANCE: Substitute Senate Bill 1576; Senate Bill 1570; Substitute Senate Bill 1572; Substitute Senate Bill 1549; Substitute Senate Bill 1549; Substitute Senate Bill 1625; Substitute Senate Bill 1045; TRANSPORTATION: Substitute Senate Bill 815; EDUCATION: Substitute Senate Bill 1840; GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: House Bill 6870; House Bill 9249; INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE: House Bill 6995; GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: House Bill 9242.

## THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to the passage of the bills, as called by the Clerk? If not, Senator Fauliso, do you move the passage of all said bills?

**JOINT  
STANDING  
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no more significant office in our government than that of lawmaker and disruption of the present sequence, which bases precedence on those offices with the greatest geographical area, would cause administrative difficulty, since many functions conform to the present sequence. I would therefore ask the indulgence of this assembly in urging your adherence to the present order of offices and in your thus permitting this concession to administrative expediency.

HB6973 would change the statutory form of the absentee ballot to provide for the inclusion of the names of the candidates. This is a desirable change and should be coupled with a modification of the form of the absentee ballot to more closely conform to the voting machine ballot label with which all our electors are familiar. It is my understanding that the Commission to Revise Election Laws has recommended both of these changes. However, with regard to absentee voting, it would seem clear that the right of our citizens to vote should not be lost because of absence from their town of residence on election day. For this reason, I heartily favor extension of the privilege of absentee voting to those electors who will be absent from the town of their voting residence during all of the hours of voting on election day. Such an extension would constitute another significant step ahead in the Connecticut effort to facilitate the acquisition and exercise of voting rights.

SB508 and 933, it would seem that the appointment of a chief moderator would do much to expedite the compilation of election returns and ensure their accuracy, since the function of this official would be concentrated on coordinating the returns of the moderators and of the several voting districts and preparing the return of the vote for the entire municipality.

SB1020 entitled "A Panel of Moderators" would require the registrars of voters to appoint a panel of moderators immediately following their election from which panel the moderators of primaries and elections would have to be appointed. It would further require the secretary of state to hold a school for moderators. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the desirability of such a measure.

We presently have a very detailed statutory procedure designed to ensure the inclusion of names on the registry list of those electors entitled to vote and the exclusion of names therefore of individuals not so entitled. On election day the moderator in

two or more candidates inspiring for an office that the town clerk could not set a time and place for these candidates or their representatives to come and draw lots for their names on the ballot. I think Mr. Zaiman would appreciate this if he were here.

William J. Murphy, Legislative Chairman, Registrar of Voters Association: Before I go into the election laws, I would like to speak on behalf of the Registrar of Voters Association, as a past president and as a member of the legislative committee, I worked very frequently with Rep. Begg and found him always a man dedicated for betterment of the election laws and procedures. Therefore, I would like to implore the Lord to be merciful to him and grant him peace and grant peace to his family in this their time of trial.

In reference to making voters overseas in absentia, I favor the serviceman, students, teachers and those working in government positions, but I am absolutely opposed to those who are retired and living there because they can live cheaper and possibly ducking the payment of taxes and I see no reason why they should have their cake and eat it too.

HB6972, 7468, and SB1138. Our association is opposed generally to the use of electronic devices for a number of reasons. In most cases the polling place does not supply sufficient room to allow for additional telephones or electronic equipment and we feel it would definitely interfere with the orderly process of the election. There maybe some places where it may work but definitely we are opposed to it. We believe the present method is quite satisfactory.

HB6973, the absentee ballot label containing the name of the candidates, we are definitely in favor and also believe the Commission to Revise the Election Laws has a very excellent bill on this subject. SB360 which is the same type of bill, we are in favor. SB508 we oppose.

SB1020 - The Registrars Association feels quite differently about the role of the moderator on election day then does Miss Toro and many of the other election officials. We feel that the moderator is not king for a day - he is merely there to maintain order. We believe there should be a chief moderator who would assist in the teaching and instruction of the moderators and making sure, under the jurisdiction of the registrar of voters who are actually responsible for the election the moderator only has jurisdiction in his own polling place and the registrars can see that all polling places are conducted in the same manner and it is

sets of voting districts, you have to print one set for the new and one for the old district. This is a great cost to any city plus it confuses the voter and at this point, voters will not go to two different places and I fully agree with them. I think we should have one set in each town.

I would like to oppose SB1001 and SB1002. To cite Stamford, provide town committee members, for each set of voting districts, in our town would mean as much as 114 members or this year and next year down to forty so that in order to conform with the law, you have to live within the boundary lines in that district when you're using a town district line or a state district line.

SB933 - I would like to speak in favor of and this bill states that the registrar of voters shall appoint. I think this is very good and for the same reason I oppose SB508 unless the wording is changed. In the statement of purpose where it mentions "at the option of the municipality", I think it should be registrar of voters.

SB360 - I'm in favor of and I think this is a must and keeps the voter from becoming confused.

SB1027 - Concerning absentee ballots in party primaries - this as the chairman of the Primary Subcommittee of the Elections Committee, we have passed on this.

SB1053 - concerning emergencies at polling places - this too we have had in Stamford. It should be left to the registrar of voters. We are on top of what is happening all day and are available at all times. To cite an example, when the power failure happened in one area during the primary, we were notified within a matter of a minute and from our office, on our way to this polling area, have sent to the polling place before we got there, we were able to instruct the moderator as to what was taking place and what to do and also to immediately call on our closest fire department to the school to bring the portable generators and if this is done within the jurisdiction of the registrars, within a matter of minutes, therefore you would not be holding up the voting. You have set up these elections or primary and you are closest to the situations, but if you left the words in municipal officials, this may mean an official other than a registrar and it might be hard to contact him on that day.

HB6973 - change of the form of the absentee ballot. As a member of the forms committee, we had an excellent form which I believe has been turned over.