

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 8980	PA 503	1973
House - 6364-6369		6
Senate - 3976, 4086		2
Transmittal - 0		0
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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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CONNECTICUT  
GEN. ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS  
1973

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6127-6386

**KFC**  
**3618**  
**.H84b**

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Respectfully, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I believe that in previous sessions we mandated local boards of education to do so and also provided state monies for this and I'm concerned to stand here without this information before us and take a step which could on the face of it put off the effective date of a comprehensive state program of drug education and a comprehensive program to train teachers to provide such a program until September 1st, 1976. hw

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 119th.

REP. STEVENS: (119th)

Mr. Speaker, I would move that we pass retaining this item so that the questions raised can be answered.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there objection to the motion to pass retained? Without objection, it is so ordered and the item will be passed retaining its place on the Calendar. Clerk please call the next item.

THE CLERK:

Page 11, Cal. No. 801, File No. 855, Sub. H.B. No. 8980.  
AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND SAFETY TRAINING FOR  
OPERATORS OF SCHOOL BUSES.

Favorable report of the Committee on Appropriations.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 112th.

REP. JOHNSON: (112th)

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

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MR. SPEAKER:

hw

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark.

REP. JOHNSON: (112th)

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am privileged to co-sponsor this bill with my friend from Trumbull sitting in front of me, Rep. Holdsworth. A very needed piece of legislation. This would require establishing of a procedure for physical exams, safety training of school bus operators in the State of Connecticut.

These minimum requirements for physical exams or physical proficiency and minimum proficiency requirements for operating a school bus would be adopted in conjunction with No. 17 of the highway safety standards and would be effective by September 1, 1974.

The thrust of the bill, Mr. Speaker, came because of a very tragic death of a ten-year old gal, a classmate of my daughter's, in front of Hallow School in Monroe. Lori George was killed by the front wheels of a school bus a few yards from her home viewed by her brother and many other youngsters waiting to board the bus. It was a tragic day in my town, Mr. Speaker, and it's too bad we often have to legislate because of such tragedy and not before in hopes to preclude such a thing happening.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker, it gets a very needed program off the ground and will continue to deter such tragedies as I have known in my town. I urge its adoption.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 77th.

REP. WRIGHT: (77th)

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Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill. I think it's important. Everybody is concerned about the safety of the school children and the qualifications of the school bus driver and I think anything we can do to assure that the drivers will be qualified is important and necessary legislation. hw

I would just like to say one more time that I think a major step at this Legislature could have taken this year was killed when we did not allow towns that have municipal bus service to use those skilled drivers with their good equipment and years of practice to drive our school children back and forth to school. I think that's one piece of legislation that would provide additional safety for our children and would also help us to provide efficient bus transportation for the cities and I think that that bill should be reconsidered and acted upon this year.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 143rd.

REP. MATTHEWS: (143rd)

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. As Rep. Johnson has indicated to you we also in the town of New Canaan about a year and one-half ago had a young child killed by the front wheel of a school bus in the front of many of that child's fellow students.

It appears to me that there can be no better way to provide the safety of the children who ride the bus than to give reasonable and appropriate training and safety measures to the people who are driving the busses. While I'm sure none of them in any way intentionally do anything that is normally out of order in

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driving the bus, they are distracted in many cases by animals, hw  
by children, by other noises and so forth and I think that the  
emphasis on training them in being careful about driving their  
bus especially when they start up or stop it will be very meaning-  
ful to us.

We have a lady in the town of New Canaan, Mrs. Nancy Ritchie,  
who by chance many of you may have read about in the various  
newspapers and magazines and so forth who has been sponsoring  
bus safety throughout this state and in fact because of her many  
other states in the country are beginning to give much more atten-  
tion to the problems involving bussing.

I certainly strongly support this bill and hope that the  
members of the House will join us in passing it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 53rd.

REP. BRAINARD: (53rd)

Mr. Speaker, through you to the gentleman who brought out  
the bill. I am in support of the bill but I would like to raise  
just a basic question, sir.

MR. SPEAKER:

Please state your question.

REP. BRAINARD: (53rd)

The gentleman from Monroe. Where and by who would this  
training be actually conducted?

REP. JOHNSON: (112th)

Through you Mr. Speaker, the Department of Motor Vehicles.

REP. BRAINARD: (53rd)

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And the individuals would have to take the instruction at  
possibly a regional office in their area? hw

REP. JOHNSON: (112th)

Through you Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question would be part of the regulations to be developed by that department of motor vehicles and I anticipate that that would be the case, however this is just the initial enabling first step to get this program off the ground.

REP. BRAINARD: (53rd)

I understand. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are you prepared to vote? All members would please take their seats. Question is on acceptance and passage of Sub. for H.B. No. 8980. Machine will be open. Has everyone voted? Machine will be closed and the Clerk please take a tally. Gentleman from the 18th.

REP. NEIDITZ: (18th)

Affirmative.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 18th wishes to be recorded in the affirmative. Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Total Number Voting.....	131
Necessary for Passage.....	66
Those voting Yea.....	131
Those voting Nay.....	0
Absent and Not Voting.....	20

MR. SPEAKER:

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The Joint Committee's favorable report is accepted and the bill is passed. hw

THE CLERK:

Clerk is in possession of a resolution, H.J.R. No. 220, RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ATTORNEY LINDA D. HERSHMAN, introduced by Sen. Costello, Rep. Bard, Rep. Coatsworth, and Sen. Lieberman.

MR. SPEAKER:

Gentleman from the 32nd.

REP. COATSWORTH: (32nd)

Mr. Speaker, may I ask the patience and the time of this House. This resolution concerns a staff member who has worked for us for quite some time and I'd like to move adoption of the resolution and ask the Clerk to please read the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is on adoption of the resolution. Would the Clerk please read the resolution.

THE CLERK:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ATTORNEY LINDA D. HERSHMAN:

RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY WHEREAS Attorney Linda D. Hershman of the Legislative Commission Office has worked for the General Assembly for the past three years and

WHEREAS Attorney Hershman has served the General Assembly with distinction and devotion and

WHEREAS Attorney Hershman has brightened the halls and the hearts of the General Assembly with her beauty and wit and

WHEREAS Attorney Hershman is now leaving the General Assembly to become Assistant Dean at the University of Connecticut School

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SENATE

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May 17, 1973

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Substitute for House Bill No. 8980. AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND SAFETY TRAINING FOR OPERATORS OF SCHOOL BUSES.

Favorable report of the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Lenge.

SENATOR LENGE:

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

THE CHAIR:

Has Senator Lenge read the --- Senator Lenge.

SENATOR LENGE:

The funds appropriated for this purpose are \$21,000, for physical examinations and safety training of operators of school buses. It received a strong committee backing, and I move that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Is there objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

CALENDAR NO. 1157. FILE NO. 920 and 105. Substitute for House Bill No. 8039. An act increasing fees for ---

THE CHAIR:

Boiler Operating and Elevator Certificates.

Senator DeNardis.

SENATOR ROME:

Mr. President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. I would yield to

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4004-4434

May 17, 1973

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C. G. C.

We're removing 1193 for what reason I do not know, but we'll discuss it.

THE CHAIR:

1193 we're removing?

SENATOR ROME:

Page 7, bottom.

THE CLERK:

Yes, I had--that bill called?

THE CHAIR:

Call the bill.

SENATOR ROME:

May we act on my motion. We'll call the bill thereafter, please?

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption of the Consent Calendar as enumerated by Senate Majority Leader Rome. All those in favor signify by saying Aye. Is there opposition? Hearing none, the Consent Calendar is adopted.

SENATOR LENGE:

Mr. President. Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Rome, would you move--we have some Senate bills, some amended bills...

SENATOR ROME:

I move suspension of the rules for immediate transmittal of all the matters passed to the appropriate authority.

Bills passed on the Consent Calendar HB-8864, HB-826  
HB-9317, HB-8082, HB-8644, HB-9401, HB-8685, HB-8983,  
SB-2484, HB-8144, HB-9390, HB-8745, HB-8270, HB-8960,  
HB-8957, HB-9355, SB-2483, SB-2158, HB-8841, SB-2244,  
HB-9404, HB-9387, HB-8854, HB-8539, HB-8147, HB-8301,  
SB-2027, HB-8874, SB-1778, HB-8349, HB-8551, SB-2383,  
HB-9387, SB-2432, HB-8746, HB-8229, HB-9157, HB-9153,  
HB-8642, HB-9385, HB-8080, HB-9124, HB-8409, HB-8564,  
HB-8980, HB-8941, HB-8320 and HB-9207.