

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 5685 PA 389 *clarified* 1976

Environment 431-432, 456, 465-467 (6)

Senate 2565-2566 (2)

House ~~2870-2872~~ 2872, 2874, 2872 (3)
~~no report?~~

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JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

ENVIRONMENT
PART 2
269 - 562

1976

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ENVIRONMENT

March 4, 1976
11:00 A.M.

and local police keep a better eye out for cars that are obviously not up to par and I see many of them in my limited travels. And I'm sure that those who travel more than I do and those who now travel as much as I used to see many more than I do. I think it's a matter of enforcement of current law and adding a new law, I don't think is going to do very much for us.

And as far as my pocketbook is concerned, this will be extra money away from me.

REPRESENTATIVE SERRANI: Thank you. Just one other question, Mr. Juliani. Are you aware Arizona...emissions?

MR. JULIANI: No, I am not.

REPRESENTATIVE SERRANI: Maybe it's something you may be interested in looking at. How the process works and the fact there are no waiting lines. At most it's ten minutes - during lunch hour time are the peak hours for that.

MR. JULIANI: I think this bill probably would take care of that particular point. I'm assured that it would, and I believe those who spoke to me on it. I do object however to the "up to ten dollars".

CHAIRMAN CIAMPI: Thank you. Sidney F. VanZandt. Okay. Rebecca Bormann.

REBECCA BORMAN: I planned to say Good Morning, but I guess now it's afternoon, so Good Afternoon. My name is Rebecca Bormann and I am here representing the Connecticut Citizen Action Group. We urge the committee to give a joint favorable report on bill number 5685, AN ACT CONCERNING A BAN ON THE USE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS IN THE STATE.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, more commonly known as PCBs, are a class of man made chemicals that should never have been produced in the first place. But in the 1930's, when PCBs were first introduced, the earth and its capacity to absorb pollution seemed limitless and cancer was yet a rarity, so PCBs were used. They were used in dyes, inks, caulking, paints, coolants, insulators, glues, flame proofing, transformers, capacitors, as well as many other products.

But in 1972, in response to mounting evidence that polychlorinated biphenyls posed a threat to both health and the environment, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, officially limited the use of PCBs to closed electrical systems such as transformers and capacitors. Exposure to large quantities of PCBs had been linked to miscarriage, still birth, skin disease, nausea, dizziness, eye and nasal irritation, and asthma attacks and it is now believed

that PCBs may also cause cancer of the liver.

In spite of the EPAs action more PCBs continue to find their way into Connecticut's waterways. Some of the PCBs are coming from plants that manufacture closed electrical systems such as the Massachusetts General Electric Plant on the Housatonic River. Another source of PCBs are the land fill sites where old electrical equipment and other products containing the chemical are dumped. PCBs can only be destroyed by incineration at temperatures above 2700° fahrenheit. Once PCBs are in the environment, they're there to stay. They are not biodegradable. Furthermore this toxic chemical is known to accumulate in fish and other animals.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) has said that fish with more than 5 parts per million PCBs are unfit for human consumption. Canada has gone even further by prohibiting the sale of fish with over 2 parts per million PCBs.

Striped Bass taken from the Long Island Sound near Fairfield was over the FDA limit and a sample from Westport was perilously close to the limit. PCBs have also been found in the sediment of a number of Connecticut's rivers including the Housatonic, Quinnipiac, Park and Still Rivers.

The PCB problem is a serious one that will continue to worsen until all PCB pollution stops. Every amount of PCB pollution that goes in never comes out, so it's to the fact that it has to be stopped by cutting off all additional sources.

So we urge you to give a joint favorable report on Committee Bill 5685.

CHAIRMAN CIAMPI: Are there any questions from the committee? That's it.

REBECCA BORMANN: Okay. The only other thing is -- thank you.

CHAIRMAN CIAMPI: Charles McKinney. Mr. McKinney, please.

CHARLES D. MCKINNEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I'm Charles McKinney, Director of the Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Area Management Program.

I am here today to give testimony on Bill No. 343, AN ACT CONCERNING COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT. While I am generally in support of this legislation, substantial modification is necessary to make it compatible with ongoing planning activities in the coastal area management program and to enable the state and local governments to qualify for continuing

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENOL

Polychlorinated Biphenol - toxic industrial chemical - used in electrical products as an insulating fluid.

Recently, in many states and countries, increasing concern of the effects of the release of PCB into the environment.

PCB's, when released into the environment often find their way into waterways. They are not water soluble, and sink to the bottom of river beds. However, on the river bed, they enter organic matter living on the river bed. Through this mechanism, they enter the river ecosystem. Fish eat plants and small aquatic organisms and thus PCB's enter the fish. Since they are fat soluble, they accumulate in the fatty tissues. Since man eats fish, man's ecosystem is also endangered.

PCB's can have serious effects on man's health. The precise effects of this man-made compound are not known, but they are known to be capable of causing miscarriages and still-births, and it is believed that PCB's have some relationship to the causing of liver cancer.

PCB's are totally unnatural compounds, being man-made. Thus, the environment has not evolved ways to break down such compounds. They can thus persist in the environment for many years. Already the PCB's in Connecticut rivers represent a threat that will be with us for many years/

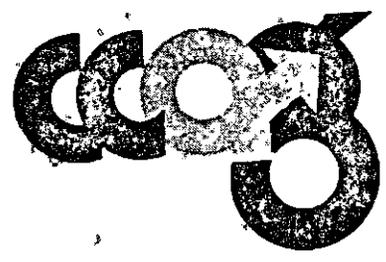
Manufacturers at present are working on substitute compounds, which will render the use of PCB unnecessary.

The precise level of safety of PCB in the environment is disputed. Canada recently restricted the safe level of PCB's in the environment to 2ppm.

This level is already greatly exceeded in many Connecticut rivers.

What is sure is that the only way to stop ^{increasing levels of PCB in CT is to} its further industrial usage.

The state should concern itself with all dangerous chemicals that are released to the environment. An increasing number of compounds are coming onto the market, and the State should consider control of all dangerous chemicals.



Testimony before the Environment Committee

on

An Act Concerning a Ban on the Use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls

BY: Rebecca Bormann
March 4, 1976

Good morning. My name is Rebecca Bormann and I am here representing the Connecticut Citizen Action Group. We urge the committee to give a joint favorable report on bill number 5685, An Act Concerning a Ban on the Use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in the State.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, more commonly known as PCBs, are a class of man-made chemicals that should never have been produced in the first place. But in the 1930s the earth and its capacity to absorb pollution seemed limitless and cancer was yet a rarity, so PCBs were used. They were used in dyes, inks, caulking paints, coolants, insulators, glues, flame proofing, transformers, capacitors, and many other products.

In 1972, in response to mounting evidence that polychlorinated biphenyls posed a threat to health and the environment, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, officially limited the use of PCBs to closed electrical systems such as transformers.

CONNECTICUT CITIZEN
ACTION GROUP

BOX 6465 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105
OFFICES: 57 FARMINGTON AVE. HARTFORD, CONN.
PHONE 203/527-7191
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and capacitors. Exposure to large quantities of PCBs had been linked to miscarriage, still birth, skin disease, nausea, dizziness, eye and nasal irritation, and asthma attacks and it is now believed that PCBs may also cause cancer.

In spite of the EPA's action more PCBs continue to find their way into Connecticut's waterways. Some of the PCBs are coming from plants that manufacture closed electrical systems such as the Universal Manufacturing Corporation in Bridgeport and the Massachusetts General Electric Plant on the Housatonic River. Another source of PCBs are the land-fill sites where old electrical equipment and other products containing the chemical are dumped. PCBs can only be destroyed by incineration at temperatures above 2700° fahrenheit. Once PCBs are in the environment it is almost impossible to get rid of them because they are not biodegradable. Furthermore this toxic chemical is known to accumulate in fish.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) has said that fish with more than 5 ppm PCBs are unfit for human consumption. Canada has gone even further by prohibiting the sale of fish with over 2 ppm PCBs. Striped Bass taken from the Long Island Sound near Fairfield was over the FDA limit and a sample from Westport was perilously close to the limit. PCBs have also been found in the sediment of a number of Connecticut's rivers including the Housatonic, Quinnipiac, Park and Still Rivers.

The PCB problem is a serious one that will continue to worsen until all PCB pollution stops. We urge you to pass raised committee bill 5685.

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CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
SENATE

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discretionary and none was allocated by the commissioner of higher education for the current year. It provides for transfer of functions and obligations from the commissioner of higher education with thirty-five thousand dollars for personnel and other and one hundred fifteen thousand dollars for ETS contracts for fifteen thousand dollars additional. I move, if there is no objection, that it be placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR.

roc

THE PRESIDENT:

Without objection, the matter is placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 837, Files 262, 765 and 852. Favorable report of the joint standing committee on Appropriations. Substitute for House Bill 5685, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, as amended by House Amendment Schedule A.

THE PRESIDENT:

This is a kind of a live one, Harold, be careful with it. There are some long words there.

SENATOR HANSEN: (30th)

I know the abbreviation for it.

THE PRESIDENT:

Go ahead, Senator Hansen.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move for acceptance of the committee's report and passage of the bill as amended by the House Amendment Schedule A.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Do you care to remark on it, Senator?

SENATOR HANSEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill puts very strong controls on PCBs which we have all read about recently because of the current situation in the Hudson River. House Amendment Schedule A simply eliminated from the bill the right to give the commissioner the ability to prohibit the use of this chemical in the state. I believe that the bill provides adequate safeguards to make certain that they will be kept under control. And if there is no opposition, I ask that it be put on the CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE PRESIDENT:

The matter has been moved to Consent. Do you oppose that motion? If not, ordered to CONSENT.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 840, File 721. Favorable report of the joint standing committee on Finance. House Bill 5603. AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES USED AS SCHOOL BUSES.

THE PRESIDENT:

Senator Beck.

SENATOR BECK: (29th)

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

THE PRESIDENT:

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THE CLERK:

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Page 6, Calendar No. 353, Substitute for H.B. 5685, an Act concerning the use of polychlorinated biphenyls.

THOM SERRANI:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The question's on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

THOM SERRANI:

Yes. There is an Amendment, L.C.O. No. 2561.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Clerk please call L.C.O. 2561.,,the Chair will designate House "A".

THE CLERK:

House "A", offered by Representative Serrani, of the 144th.

THOM SERRANI:

Yes. If I may summarize, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the gentleman from the 144th for that purpose.

THOM SERRANI:

The Amendment deletes line 100 through 109, specifically because of the which we thought was a bad precedent setting up the Commissioner to determine what is/^{an}acceptable substitute for the compound PCB. There's many facets involved in the compound PCB...

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it's safety features; it's fire safety; whether or not it's acceptable in the environment...so we felt that we should not include this...not include the Commissioner as making a final determination on whether a substitute is available. efr

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is on adoption of House "A". Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, all those in favor of House "A" signify by saying "aye". Those who are opposed. House "A" is adopted. The Chair rules it technical.

THOM SERRANI:

Yes. Mr. Speaker, speaking on the bill, this bill would restrict the sale and manufacture and use of a class of chemical compounds known as PCB's, polychlorinated biphenyls, or carephenyls. PCB's are heat-resistant compound which are used in electrical works, transformers, capacitors, and various electrical components. It was used years ago in many different products, but it has been banned since 1972 by the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington. This bill would authorize the Commissioner of D.E.P. To regulate the permitted uses. It would establish penalties for violations of the Act and would require labeling for transformers and capacitors which are used in the State of Connecticut. PCB's ...the reason they are dangerous is because they are carcinogenic. That means they cause cancer...have been proven to cause cancer in rats and mice and different animals in Swedish tests and in Japanese tests. The bill would help the State of Connecticut to know where these uses are in the State, how chemical PCB is being transported, and would, overall, give us some kind of control on

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this dangerous chemical. I move for the passage of the bill. efr

MR. SPEAKER:

Will you remark further? If not, will the Members please take their seats; the staff come to the well. The machine will be opened. Has every Member voted? Is your vote recorded in the manner in which you wish to have it recorded? The machine will be closed. The Clerk please take a tally.

MARCUS H. BORDIERE:

Mr. Speaker, in the affirmative, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

Representative Bordiere, from the 24th, in the affirmative.

ROBERT D. SHEA:

Mr. Speaker, in the affirmative, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

Representative Shea, from the 19th, in the affirmative. The Clerk please announce the tally.

The following is the result of the vote:

Total number voting	126
Necessary for passage	64
Those voting Yea.	126
Those voting Nay.	0
Those absent and not voting	25

Bill is passed as amended by House "A".

THE CLERK: