

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 7203	PA 364	1983
House - 5325 - 5345		21
Senate - 3591 - 3593, 3723 - 3724		5
Ed - 742, 756, (769-771), 774		6
LAW/LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY		
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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
1983

VOL. 26
PART 15
5226-5490

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House of Representatives

Thursday, May 19, 1983

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Some of you will recall Rep. Helfgott's comments earlier in the year. I think we'll just hold on to them all until the budget is passed.

Are there further announcements of points of personal privilege. Rep. Karsky.

REP. KARSKY: (4th)

For purpose of an introduction, please.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Please proceed.

REP. KARSKY: (4th)

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber. We are privileged and honored today to have in the well of the House a young but seasoned veteran of campaigning and a very, very lovely young lady, the wife of Tony Palermino. Would you please greet her. (applause)

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

That whole district must be here today.

Are there further announcements or points of personal privilege?

If not, will the Clerk please return to the Call of the Calendar.

CLERK:

Page 9, Calendar 636, House Bill 7203, AN ACT
CONCERNING CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS USED IN THE

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LIBRARY GRANT STATUTES. Favorable Report on Committee
on Education.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Will
you remark, Madam?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Yes, sir. The Clerk has an amendment 5884. May
the Clerk read, and may I be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The Clerk has LCO 5884 designated House Amendment
Schedule "A". Will the Clerk please call the amendment
only.

CLERK:

LCO 5884 designated House "A" offered by Rep.
Goodwin of the 54th.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The Representative seeks permission to summarize

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this amendment in lieu of reading by the Clerk. Is there objection? Hearing none, you may proceed.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. all this does is to clarify one statement on line 55 which would now read, general library purposes means all functions of a public library including the purchase of land or the construction alteration or remodeling of buildings. This makes this particular section of the bill a great deal clearer than it was before.

I move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The question is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on its adoption.

Will you remark on the adoption of House "A".

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Yes, sir. I would merely say that this clarifies the particular section of the bill which was amended, and I would move acceptance of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The question is on adoption of House "A". Will you remark on its adoption. Will you remark further on the adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A".

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If not, all those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Those opposed nay.

REPRESENTATIVES:

No.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The ayes have it. House "A" is adopted and it is ruled technical.

House Amendment Schedule "A".

In line 34, delete the opening bracket, bracket the word "except" and after the closing bracket insert "INCLUDING"

In line 35, bracket "purchasing" and after the closing bracket insert "PURCHASE"

In line 36, delete the closing bracket and strike out "THE BASIC FUNCTIONS OF"

Strike out line 37 in its entirety.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further on this bill as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A".

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Thank you. What this does is to clarify some of the definitions that we currently have in the statutes to bring them more in line with what is reality in the world today as far as libraries are concerned.

The first change. It defines a public library as a library that will not charge for borrowers' cards, and that has some local tax support.

It then goes on to define what we mean by a principal public library. Now a principal public library is that library that is designated by your municipal governing board, your local group as being the principal public library. This is going to have importance in years to come as we concern ourselves with changes in funding, but for the purposes of this bill, it is merely a definition.

The third thing is it says that you can have more public libraries if you wish to have more public libraries in your town, but there is only one that can be designated as a principal public library.

Now, the non-principal public libraries can also receive grants, but only if they are set up as completely independent libraries, that is, with their own board, their

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own staff, their own building, and also some allocation of state money. It also retains what was in the previous definition and that is that a number of towns may get together and designate one principal library to serve a number of towns. However, this has to be done with the advice and consent of the State Library Board.

This in essence is a technical revision of the various definitions. I think you will find as more library bills come out, that this is rather important for us to have these definitions in place.

One question that many of you may have is the question of defining a public library as one where there is no charge for a borrower's card. Some of you may have heard from the council of a municipality where they are concerned about this because some of them make a charge in order to help defray some of the library costs. I think we must think in terms of public libraries as we think in terms of our public schools and if there is going to be state funding given to any of these libraries, I think it must be very clearly established that they are free, public libraries.

I urge you to support this bill and pass it unanimously. Thank you.

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REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Joan Kemler.

REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, if I may, through you, some questions to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Please frame your first question, madam.

REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rep. Meyer, purely for information, because I really don't have any knowledge in this area. In lines 51 through 53 and lines 65 and 66, there is a provision for a separate board of governing bodies and a different library director and staff for each public library.

My question to you, Rep. Meyer is this. If a town has two libraries and if they choose to schedule the opening hours of those libraries on different days, one is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday perhaps and the other open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and the town chose to have one library director and one staff who would be able to cover both libraries, would they be able to do this under

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this bill, or would that, does this preclude them from that kind of a pattern?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It would not preclude them from so doing. However, those libraries then would not be eligible for any state grants such as a public library that does have its own governing board, its own staff, but it would be very possible for you to continue doing this, but you could not then try to get money for those libraries, only the one library would be eligible.

REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I may.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Kemler.

REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't understand the rationale for that, Rep. Meyer. I mean, if this is all a town deems to be the demand for those two libraries and if they find that they can have a staffing pattern that is sufficient, and you have one director who can manage both libraries because we're saying neither one is a full-time library, I don't understand why the State should be penalizing those libraries to the extent that they're withholding funds.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Through you, the problem has been that we have a very limited amount of state money to be distributed for the support of libraries. If we are going to distribute this money to these libraries, we feel that they should be fully staffed, fully functional libraries. The idea is that we are going to, which you will see later on with some of the, another bill that will come up with the funding, the idea of establishing a principal library which will receive the basic grant.

Now, other libraries in order to get any money, would have to be separate full libraries. What you would do in the case you have referred to is the one library that has the governing board, that has the full staff and the like would receive the grant. The way you distribute that one grant would be up to you and the way you distribute your staff would be up to you. But you would not be eligible to have the two libraries come in and ask for the money and it is to prevent this duplication that we are suggesting that they be defined in this way.

REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Mr. Speaker, through you, if I may, just one last

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REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Thank you very much.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further? Rep. Rothman.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Thank you. Just one question if I may, through you to Rep. Meyer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Please state your question, Madam.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Rep. Meyer. If you have a private library that is providing services the same as a public library, would they be entitled to the grant?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

The qualifications are that this, principal public library must qualify in this way. It must have some local taxpayers' money going to it, not the entire sum is necessary, but some must be so designated, and it must be designated by your local municipal governing board, that this is the principal library.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Rothman, you have the floor, Madam.

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question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Please frame your question, Madam.

REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Thank you. Then do I understand you correctly, Rep. Meyer that unless one of the libraries in the town is opened full time so to speak, and has a full time staff, the town would not be eligible for a grant? They would not receive these monies which you suggest they could then share with the satellite unless they had some kind of standing on their own which would be that they be full time and have their own staff.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Through you, Mr. Speaker. There are no qualifications as to amount of time that the library is open. That is left entirely up to the local library board. The qualifications that are necessary are to have a board of trustees, a library director and staff. How those people are used is not specified, but as long as you have that, your library, and if the library has been designated as the primary public library of that community. Then they would be eligible for funding.

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REP. KEMLER: (18th)

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further?

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Rothman.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Thank you. Just one question, if I may through you to Rep. Meyer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Please state your question, Madam.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Thank you. Rep. Meyer, if you have a private library that is providing services the same as a public library, would they be entitled to the grant?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

The qualifications are that this - the principle public library must qualify in this way. It must have some local taxpayers money going to it, not the entire sum is necessary, but some must be so designated and it must be designated by your local municipale governing board that this is the principle library.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Rothman, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Just one other question that I want to clarify. You said in your first statement that public, it must be public libraries, when you first started out, and does public have to appear in the library. I mean, it is not a public library, it's a private library even though it's doing a public service.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer, will you respond?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Mr. Speaker, through you, the definition of a public library is a library that does not charge for a card and that has some local tax support. Those are the only two qualifications for a public library designation.

REP. ROTHMAN: (111th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further on this bill as amended by House "A"?

REP. PARKER: (31st)

Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Parker.

REP. PARKER: (31st)

Thank you. Through you a question. A public library, by definition on line 13, is one that does not charge for a borrowers card, according to the file. For legislative intent, if a card is lost, could a lost card fee be charged?

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer, will you respond?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

I would assume that this would be the type of thing that we would have to leave to the local community. If the original card was not paid for, that that would probably satisfy the intent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Parker, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. PARKER: (31st)

Mr. Speaker, my question was for legislative intent. I'm thinking that a town may charge for lost cards and then, according to the definition, it would not be available for a grant so for the legislative intent, can the proponent give me a definite answer.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

It would be my perception that as long as the original card is free of charge, that the town would be - it would be at the discretion of the librarian if something was lost to charge or not to charge for a replacement of such a card.

REP. PARKER: (31st)

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further on this bill as amended?

REP. RYBAK: (66th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Rybak.

REP. RYBAK: (66th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having listened to the debate on this bill which I don't wish to prolong any further than necessary, I'm convinced this bill is not in the best interest of the small towns of our state and the small town libraries and that this bill should be defeated and the Grant Formula Bill, which will come along later, should be defeated. The reason why I say this is because

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of the history of the small libraries in our small towns. Most of these libraries started out as privately endowed libraries, usually with a benefactor who set up a trust. who designated that the income from that trust would support the library. In the terms of that trust, he spelled out specific conditions for how that library would be governed. Over the years, the income from the trust gradually eroded to the point where a town subsidy was necessary in order to keep the library going. This is the fact of life in most of our small towns today.

Some of them have more than one of these libraries. I have one town in my district with two such libraries. The problem with this bill is it imposes a series of mandates on these small libraries that have grown up under different conditions than those assumed in this bill. It assumes a separate Board of Directors, a separate staff, a separate library director. It says you can't charge, however nominal that might be, for a card in that library and I frankly just don't see any need for this bill. No compelling case has been made.

As has been pointed out, yes, the library grants in this state are small. In fact they're so small to the point where they're really insignificant and in the formula bill that will come along later, we put them through what

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amounts to a GTB contraption that may have been designed by an actuary for a very small amount of dollars; \$1,000 for a non-principle library and \$1,200 for a principle library is the current grant. I say leave the current system alone or do away with it in its entirety, one or the other.

REP. GOODWIN: (54th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Dorothy Goodwin.

REP. GOODWIN: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With I'm sure the best will of the world, Rep. Rybak has told about half of the story. One of the problems has been that there is a great diversity in the handling of library services among towns in the state. There are endowed libraries, which are pretty much self-supporting; there are endowed libraries that are almost entirely not self-supporting; there are entirely public libraries and there are all kinds of combinations in between. There are satellite libraries that are branches of big libraries and other cases where there is no administrative connection between libraries within a town. Under the old grant system, you got a flat grant, pretty much a flat grant, depending on how many

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libraries you had in the town. If you had four libraries, you got four grants, regardless of anything else to do with the needs of the library system in the town. The purpose of having a principle library is to make sure that the money goes with some minimum degree of equity on the basis of the institution that the town has. If a very wealthy town has four libraries within its borders and the town of Scotland, for instance, has a library that's open two hours a week, we don't treat those situations as differently as we do at the present time.

Rep. Rybak points out that the amount of money in the grants is very small and we will be getting to that when we come to the other bill but it is very clearly, grossly unfair to have the number of grants depend on the number of separate entities within a town. When in a circumstance where a town may have consolidated its library in such a way that you have one principle library and three satellites which are funded from the central source, which, under the present circumstance, would be able to get one grant whereas if they were totally separate, they'd get four or three or how ever many.

The present system is not rational. It's a product of accidents of history and it badly needs to be rationalized. I also understand that already in some

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towns, consolidations of libraries are taking place in the direction anticipated by this legislation of the other bill that's coming up and that in the hopes that we would ultimately get enough money to make these grants significant, it becomes important at this time when they are not significant for us to establish the basis for a system that will, whether you believe in the GTB part of it or not, is really relatively immaterial.

The point is to give us a general institutional basis for some reasonable degree of equity. I certainly urge support of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further on this bill as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"?

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Mr. Speaker,

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Meyer.

REP. MEYER: (135th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remind you that this is merely a set of definitions. This is not a formula bill and I point out to you that the definition of a public library is merely that there is no charge for a

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borrower's card and that there be some local tax support for this. I think it is a very fair and reasonable definition and urge your support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Will you remark further on this bill as amended? Will you remark further? If not, would the staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Would the members please be seated. The machine will be opened.

The House of Representatives is now voting by roll. Would the members please return to the Chamber immediately. The House of Representatives is now voting by roll. Would the members please return to the Chamber immediately.

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted and is your vote properly cast? If so, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will please take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 7203 as amended by House "A".

Total number voting 148

Necessary for passage 75

Those voting yea 130

Those voting nay 18

Those absent and not voting 3

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DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

The bill, as amended, is passed.

At this time, the Chair will entertain announcements or Points of Personal Privilege. Are there any announcements or Points of Personal Privilege?

REP. MOYNIHAN: (10th)

Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Rep. Moynihan.

REP. MOYNIHAN: (10th)

For purposes of an introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER FRANKEL:

Please proceed, Sir.

REP, MOYNIHAN: (10th)

Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of pleasure I would like to introduce to this body Phyllis Marcus who is the mother of the Counsel to the House Majority, Shelly Marcus, and the wife of the former President of the Majority Leader of the State Senate, Ed Marcus. I met Phyllis many times over the years, up to the 1970 convention particularly, and it's with a great deal of pleasure that we welcome you here, Phyllis, to the House of Representatives today and if the body will give their usual welcome.

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1983 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

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trip to the Senate chamber, I had just been elected state chairman of the Connecticut Federation of Young Republicans. Today, I would like to introduce the newly-elected Chairman of the State Federation of Young Republicans, Gerry Labriola, Jr. (Applause)

Gerry has told me that it is not going to take him another ten years to get up here, so all I can say is Bobby Dorr, you had better watch out.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 715. File Nos. 779 and 996. Substitute for House Bill 7203. AN ACT CONCERNING CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS USED IN THE LIBRARY GRANT STATUTES, as amended by House Amendment Schedule A. Favorable report of the Committee on Education.

THE PRESIDENT:

Senator Casey.

SENATOR CASEY: (31st)

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill, as amended by House Amendment A.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Will you move House Amendment A?

SENATOR CASEY:

Yes, Mr. President. House Amendment A includes the land purchase as in construction costs in the definition of general library purposes.

THE PRESIDENT:

All those in favor of the amendment, signify by saying Aye. Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it.

HOUSE AMENDMENT A IS ADOPTED.

Senator Casey.

SENATOR CASEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. The bill provides a distinction in the statute governing public library grants between principal public libraries and other public libraries. Principal libraries must be designated by town action and must provide services without charge to town residents. Other public libraries must only provide library services and be at least partially tax supported. This bill would make several changes in the definitions and extend them to include

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library construction grants in Connecticut card
reimbursements.

If there are no objections, Mr. President,
I ask that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE PRESIDENT:

Without objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Cal. 716. File Nos. 526 and 969. Substitute
for House Bill No. 5542. AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLANNING
AND ZONING OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD, as
amended by House Amendment Schedule A. Favorable report
of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE PRESIDENT:

Senator Daniels.

SENATOR DANIELS: (10th)

Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the passage
of the committee's favorable report and passage of the
bill in concurrence with the House Amendment A.

THE PRESIDENT:

Do you move House A?

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SENATOR SCHNELLER:

Because some individuals have raised some questions about it and I would like to P.R. the item for today.

THE PRESIDENT:

Does that satisfy your inquiry?

Are there any other announcements before we call the Consent Calendar. If not, the Clerk will call the Consent Calendar. Give your attention to the Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 3 - Cal. 514, 535. Page 4 - Cal. 566 and 587. Page 5 - Cal. 666 and 667. Page 6 - Cal. 683, 685, 686. Page 7 - Cal. 692, 693, 694. Page 8 - Cal. 698, 699, 701. Page 9 - Cal. 702, 704, 706. Page 10 - Cal. 710, 715. Page 11 - Cal. 717. Page 16 - Cal. 529, 536. Page 17 - Cal. 154, and 426. Page 18 - Cal. 451. Page 19 - Cal. 219. That completes the list of items on today's Consent Calendar.

SB188, SB1116.
HB7088, SB1135.
SB169, SB355.
HR5852, HB5281.
HB5318, SB729.
SB1005, HB5672.
HB6936, HB6961.
HB6166, HB7125.
HB7274, SB1048.
SB1150, HB7203.
HB5876, SB631.
SB449, SB852.
SB879, SB810.
SB243

THE PRESIDENT:

Are there any questions or comments in reference to the Consent Calendar as read by the Clerk?

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The Clerk will make a final announcement for a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

A roll call has been called for in the Senate.

A roll call has been called for in the Senate. Will all senators please take their seats.

THE PRESIDENT:

The machine is open for the Consent Calendar. May I remind you that we have one vote to take after the Consent Calendar. The machine will be closed and locked.

Total Voting was 35. Those voting Nay is 35. THE CONSENT CALENDAR IS ADOPTED.

Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: (24th)

Mr. President, before we take the next vote, may I make an announcement?

THE PRESIDENT:

Yes, Senator.

SENATOR BAKER:

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee will be meeting tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., Room 418 to take

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EDUCATION

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MR. WALTERS: (continued)
to provide such service varies statewide. However, it also recognizes the need to encourage the best possible level of local support.

HB 7203

The last bill we have before you is really in a sense clean-up legislation. And what it is is a clarification of various definitions that are now used in the statutes and these would apply to all of the grant, library grant programs in the statutes.

I would be happy to answer any questions about those that you may have.

REP. PALERMINO: Rep. Palermino from the 5th District. A question on 1049. Is there any reason why the subsection B, pertaining to libraries, does not crack the subsection A?

MR. WALTERS: You'll have to repeat for me again. I'm sorry.

REP. PALERMINO: Is there any specific reason that you would know why Subsection B, which would provide the protection from libraries from theft, does not track Subsection A which applies to the retail and mercantile establishments?

MR. WALTERS: No, I do not. We certainly could find out for you.

REP. ALLEN: Yorke Allen, 143rd District. My question relates to the incentives, well, Bill 7202, the state grants to the public libraries, lines, wherever the incentives come in. And on page 3 of the brochure, state aid payments under the Connecticut State Library proposed formula, the three columns on the right list the figures including incentive. My general question is, are the incentive payments, whether they are at the average or above it or whatever, are sufficient to be an incentive?

MR. WALTERS: One of the things that we talked about a great deal for the past two years as we've discussed changes in the state aid formula, is whether the amounts of money that are in the bill or in the current appropriations, are sufficient to really do much of any of these things.

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MS. SARGENT: (continued)

The study committee shall report to the State Library Board and the Joint Standing Committee on Education by January 1, 1984. This bill was inspired in part by the Joint Committee on Educational Technology created as a result of Public Act 82-266.

The application of computer technology is offering great new opportunities for improved library service. The hope is that this study committee will assist in the creative thinking and planning that will apply the technology in a way to benefit all Connecticut citizens. Thank you for your support.

REP. GOODWIN: Thank you, question? Thank you very much. Mary Dymek.

MS. MARY DYMEK: Good morning. I'm Mary Dymek, I'm here representing the Connecticut Library Association and speaking in favor of four library bills before you this morning.

HB 7203
Committee Bill 7202 and 3 concerning state grants to public libraries recognize our shared responsibility for provision of library services and materials to the people of Connecticut. The proposed formula devised with your help represents a more equitable division of funds available and the incentive to cooperatively plan for the best delivery of service.

Bill 1048 recognizes the need for cooperative planning for the technology available for information delivery and 1049 allows us to take steps towards the production of often irreplaceable material, many purchased with public funds.

The Connecticut Library Association members will not be equally affected by all these pieces of legislation. Yet we felt unanimous in our endorsement of these measures as an important step in the continuing development of an information network for Connecticut. And we urge your support as well. Thank you.

REP. GOODWIN: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much. The next speaker is Christopher Bickford

REP. GOODWIN: (continued)

SB 1048
He's talking about how great the University of Connecticut libraries are and I concur in that opinion. He then goes on to say it is of some concern therefore that we note that the Proposed Study Committee, this is on 1408, does not make any reference to two of the more significant and knowledgeable groups now involved in the stated areas of concern. We would urge that the University and/or the Health Center be represented on the Study Committee.

What's your reaction?

MR. WALTERS: My reaction would be that we would, in fact, have representation from the University of Connecticut. It is my understanding --

REP. GOODWIN: In other words, you would do it as part of your appointment powers?

MR. WALTERS: Yes. We certainly would. There's no question that the University of Connecticut Library is a substantial part of the library resources in the State of Connecticut, and that because of that, there should be representation on that committee. I would mention that Norman Stevens, in fact the University of Connecticut Librarian, was one of the members of the Sub-Committee that helped draft this piece of legislation that has been presented to your committee.

REP. GOODWIN: I might -- Oh, okay. Thank you.

REP. BERMAN: No, I didn't know whether you were through.

REP. GOODWIN: I had wanted to summarize what the CCM testimony was.

REP. BERMAN: Oh, I just had a question on the formula.

REP. GOODWIN: Yes.

(HB 7203)
REP. BERMAN: I'm not clear. You talk about per capita expenditures on the part of the municipality and you also talk about a percent of funds for each class. When you talk about the per capita, are you including the percentage that the municipality spend out of their total budget or is it a straight per capita expenditure? I mean if, for

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- REP. BERMAN: (continued)
instance, a town spends \$14 per person but if that's only
8% of their budget --
- MS. BERGER: It's a straight per capita expenditure and it takes
into account not only town tax funds but any other funds
that a library may receive through contributions or endow-
ment income that they have which is different than the
formula we proposed last year. So, it's the per capita
expenditure based on the library's income for that partic-
ular year.
- REP. BERMAN: In other words, dollar for dollar, not percentage
of the total expenditure.
- MS. BERGER: No.
- REP. GOODWIN: With respect to the CCM testimony which will
also be added into the record, it seems to zero in on two
questions which suggest that they are on rather different
wave lengths from you. They want a hold harmless on the
grant, which I think rather misses the point on the grant.
And they want to eliminate the ban on user fees, which
again I think is a source of disagreement that we will not
resolve. But I think that this will be available in the
testimony.
- Well, thank you both very much. Peggy?
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: In the language here which says public
libraries -- it's section 7, line 71, public libraries
shall provide equal access to library service for all
individuals and shall not discriminate upon the basis of
age, race, sex, religion or national origin, handicap or
place of residency. When you say a library service, this
does not necessarily mean access to the library building
itself?
- MS. BERGER: That's right.
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: Is that true?
- MR. WALTERS: That's right.
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: Okay, in other words, as long as they
are able -- is there any method of getting books or tapes

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- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: (continued)
or whatever to people, is it a voluntary kind of situation
or is there a method?
- MR. WALTERS: You mean in terms of physical accessibility now?
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: No. No. In terms of getting materials
to people who eith --
- REP. GOODWIN: Is there a mailing service is what you're asking.
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: Mailing or delivery or whatever?
- MR. WALTERS: To people who cannot physically get to the library?
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: To the library.
- MR. WALTERS: There are methods that individual libraries have
developed. Some of those are services where the books are
taken to homebounds by volunteers. There is in the eastern
part of Connecticut a mail service also. So, there are
ways, but this is an individual library determination as
to how they do that. And certainly -- go ahead.
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: And if a library, a particular library
does not meet in some manner the requests of individuals
who are homebound or handicapped in some way cannot gain
access to the library, what would happen?
- MR. WALTERS: I think that we would, because that is a relatively
limited, unfortunately, process, but it is something that's
extremely difficult to a great extent relies upon volunteer
service because of the requirements of staff. Our specific
focus in this instance was to eliminate any discrimination
in terms of the services provided within the building.
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: Okay.
- MR. WALTERS: Not the the external. Unless that community were
to provide a service already of that kind, I guess we would
be concerned about any discrimination which was shown in
terms of how that service was provided.
- REP. BECKETT-RINKER: Thank you.
- REP. GOODWIN: This brings us to the end of the hearing unless
there is somebody in the audience who so wishes to address

R.C.B. 7203, "An Act Concerning Clarification of Definitions Used in the Library Grant Statutes," would modify the definition of public library as used in the determination of library grant eligibility. This bill would require that, among other things, a public library is a library which serves its residents without charging a borrower's card fee.

Again, such a requirement would reduce local control in setting library user fees. Municipalities should have the opportunity to set user fees to help maintain library services, without being penalized by the state by losing their grant eligibility.

CCM asks you to amend **R.C.B. 7203** to delete the requirement that a public library is one which does not charge borrower's card fees.