

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 5419	PA 256	Scam	1987
House	4721, 4967		(2)
Senate	1279, 2303, 2382-2383		(4)
Education	207-208, 245-248		(6)
			12 p.

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

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JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
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COMM. GLASGOW: (continued)

formulas by the Board of Governors which is being undertaken and we will be examining the formulas to ensure an adequate level of support for research in our colleges and universities.

Senate Bill 809, concerning the research foundation for the State technical colleges, I understand that the purpose of the technical colleges in introducing this was to provide a vehicle through which they could undertake private fundraising initiatives. I think that initiative and that purpose is a worthy one. I think there may be some problem with the language of this Bill in the sense that it seems to be modeled after the research foundations of the research institutions and therefore I think we do need to work with the language of this Bill to determine how their purpose is for a vehicle to undertake private fundraising can be realized without going through the search mission which is not a part of the mission of the technical colleges.

So I think we would like to have an opportunity to work with the technical colleges with regard to any appropriate language or to see if indeed legislation is required of them to do this.

House Bill 5419, An Act Adding Student Members to the Board of Governors for Higher Education. I see a number of places that I saw five and a half years or five years ago when there was a restructuring of the Board of Governors for Higher Education and a reorganization of Higher Education and much debate in regard to the makeup of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. After a lot of debate, careful consideration, the--it was decided that the Board of Governors should be an objective lay board with no direct ties to any unit of higher education in the state.

Now, the Board members, in fact, are specifically prohibited from having direct ties and affiliations to the state's colleges and universities. Now the student representation as is the input from all of our constituencies, faculty, administrators, boards of trustees and

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COMM. GLASGOW: (continued)

students was seen as being important and there's a statutory standing advisory committee that is made up of trustees, administrators, faculty of each constituent unit and independent colleges. This is some twenty two members and then those sit with the Board at every meeting and then we have joint meetings twice a year. There are five students on this twenty-two member standing advisory committee; one representing the community colleges; one the tech colleges, one CSU, one the UConn and one the independent colleges. And at least one of those student representatives is to serve on the executive committee and sit with the board at every meeting.

We feel that the representation of students and others is adequately recognized and unfortunately, even this avenue is not being utilized as one would hope it might be, so we would oppose the restructuring of the membership of the Board of Governors.

House Bill 5740, the one Representative Schmidle gave testimony on, we would say, of course, we are always pleased to do a study and analysis of needs and we would certainly urge your consideration of the funding for this because we are lean and stretched out and we would need to have some additional funds for this study to be undertaken.

House Bill 7175 concerning tuition waivers at state colleges and universities, this would waive the tuition at public colleges for up to six credit hours for permanent state employees who had enrolled in job related coursework. This, on first blush, it sounds good. On second blush, I would ask you to consider that the Governor's Task Force on Student Financial Aid and those have looked at it, have said that we should provide need to the needy, rather than categorical grants of individuals so that we would urge and we have also advocated and recommended that student financial aid be expanded to students who are enrolled on a part time basis and they can receive student financial aid if they demonstrate the need even if they are enrolled less than half time.

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MR. ATKINS: (continued)

Foundation before it actually came to a vote. The Board had worked together before the actual voting took place. But it would be good if they could have voting rights because they are stating an official opinion on it, but as far as right now, they say the Board pretty much works well together as far as achieving one's decisions are going to be.

REP. WARD: Thank you.

REP. COHEN: Let me just ask you a question if I may. I am Representative Cohen from the 15th. There was some testimony I believe in years past about this question and about attendance. Do you have any personal knowledge of whether there has been attendance problems with the student members?

MR. ATKINS: Well, with the students we talked to, and of course we're going on their word and we can't tell, but the students we talked to, one had attended all of the quarterly meetings--they meet once a quarter. The other one had, I believe, missed one but as far as the official record on how many did attend, I don't have that information.

REP. COHEN: Thank you.

MR. ATKINS: Can I move on to House Bill--

REP. COHEN: You certainly may. Go right ahead.

MR. ATKINS: Thank you. CONNPIRG also strongly urges support of House Bill 5419. This is an act adding student members to the Board of Governors of Higher Education. In 1982, the Board of Governors was created in an effort to reorganize the way higher education policy is made in Connecticut. Unfortunately in the reorganization, students were denied a position of vote on the Board.

One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Board, as stated in their literature, is to foster flexibility in

MR. ATKINS: (continued)

the policies and institutions of higher education, enabling the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technical and student interest. We ask, who knows and understands student interests better than students themselves?

By denying students the right to vote, the current law is prohibiting students from having an official vote in policies that directly affect them. Opponents of this legislation claim that students only politicize the Board. They equate students with other interests such as faculty or administrators. I think it's important to recognize the students' role in higher education is dramatically different from that of these other interests.

Students are investors in higher education. They invest time and money in the hopes of reaping the rewards of a college education in later life. Unlike faculty or administrators who have loyalties and responsibilities to their institutions, students' loyalty lies in getting the best education they possibly can. Also, unlike the aforementioned constituents, students would actually reinforce the lay quality of the board. The current structure of the Board of Governors fails to recognize this difference.

I'd like to just use an analogy and that analogy would be right now you can equate the Board with the General Assembly, the legislature. They're making decisions for the students just like the legislature is making decisions for towns now and it would be like a town such as Mansfield or Vernon who are paying their taxes to the legislature, but--and having the legislature make policy that directly affects them without any official vote on that, other than standing by and saying well, we think you should do this and we think you should do that, but no real official say.

As far as affiliation, I know the commissioner raised (inaudible) affiliation that the legislature originally tried not to have people whose interests were affiliated

MR. ATKINS: (continued)

with the Board. We see students as that of alumni equivalent to alumni where alumni are affiliated to the school like students are affiliated to the school. They're not dependent on it for some salary or that; they're just trying to get the best possible education that they can.

CONNPIRG believes the Board of Governors does excellent work and performs admirably. This Bill would make the Board even more responsive and able to set and implement policies that are going to affect Connecticut students. Thank you. Are there any questions on that?

SEN. SULLIVAN: Questions? Thank you. Susan Nadolny.

MS. SUSAN NADOLNY: Good afternoon Senator Sullivan, Representative Cohen and members of this Committee. I am Susan Nadolny and I represent the undergraduate student government at the University of Connecticut. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon.

The students of the University of Connecticut firmly support the addition of two student members to the Board of Governors for Higher Education as proposed in House Bill 5419. The Board of Governors, by its own definition, promotes the fullest possible participation in its decision making process. Yet the body most affected by these attempted revisions is not fully utilized in the decision making process. In order to make reform, one must fully understand the circumstances warranting such change and the predicted ramifications of such an action.

Although the students are now allowed to serve in an advisory capacity, it is wrong to deny the same individuals the opportunity to act on their ideas and concerns as voting members. Membership on the Board of Governors of Higher Education will allow these selected individuals the opportunity to exercise the skills which they can in turn, contribute to a progressive and enlightened Connecticut society.

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MS. NADOLNY: (continued)

Student appointments to the Board will serve as a vehicle to accomplish the Board's set goals which include a) the application of the resources of higher education to the pool of the society which certainly includes the students and, more importantly, to respond to changes in society and "student interests."

We understand the concerns presented in relation to increased membership requests as a result of this amendment, but it is our feeling that students are most qualified in that they cannot bring any career, fiscal nor professional interests to their participation. Our only bias is for the good of the students of our state.

We are confident that the input provided by student members would be invaluable and instrumental in the Board's informed and educated decision making. If allowed, the students serving on the Board will be afforded a priceless educational experience, one of which they will be able to contribute back to the state and help the state to grow as "an active and healthy Connecticut." That is taken from the Board's literature and that is their goal.

I would like to entertain questions at this time and ask that I may be able to also testify later on on House Bill 5850.

SEN. SULLIVAN: Any questions? Thank you very much for now.

MS. NADOLNY: Thank you.

SEN. SULLIVAN: House Bill 5451, Frank Napolitano.

MR. FRANK NAPOLITANO: Senator Sullivan, Representative Cohen, members of the Committee, my name is Frank Napolitano. I'm President of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association and here to request your support for Bill 5451 which would allow the University of Connecticut to convey or lease to the Alumni Association, land on the Storrs campus for the construction of Alumni House.

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House of Representatives

Thursday, April 30, 1987

REP. BALDUCCI: (27th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to place several items on the Consent Calendar for action in our next Session.

Beginning on the bottom of Page 7, Calendar 413, Senate Joint Resolution No. 40, File 453, RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISING COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A HORACE WELLS STAMP. Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

On Page 12, at the top of the Calendar, Calendar 461, Substitute for House Bill 5419, File 569, AN ACT INCREASING STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION. Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

And on Page 13, Calendar 469, Substitute for House Bill 7577, File 570, AN ACT CONCERNING LOANS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HOUSING. Favorable Report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

I would ask that those items be placed on the Consent Calendar, Mr. Speaker, for action in our next Session.

SPEAKER STOLBERG:

Is there objection to placing any of those items on the Consent Calendar for action at our next Session date?

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House of Representatives

Tuesday, May 5, 1987

of those items that are on today's Consent Calendar on page 1. The two items indicated are Calendar 413, Senate Joint Resolution 40, File 453 and Calendar 461, Substitute for House Bill 5419, File 569. I move passage of those items, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CIBES:

The gentleman has moved passage of today's Consent Calendar on, listed on page 1, items 413 and 461. Is there objection? Is there objection?

Hearing none, the Consent Calendar is adopted.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. Substitute for H.B. 5419 AN ACT INCREASING STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS. S.J.40 RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISING COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A HORACE WELLS STAMP.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER CIBES:

Clerk, please continue with the call of the Calendar.

CLERK:

Please turn to page 13, Calendar 495, House Bill 7587, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SEXUAL

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TECHNICAL SESSION  
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10 **1279**  
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Referred to Government Administration and Elections.

Education - Substitute HB 5419: AN ACT INCREASING  
STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

Referred to Government Administrations and Elections.

Government Administration and Elections - HB 5483:  
AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPUTY CLAIMS COMMISSIONER.

Referred to Apporpriations.

Planning and Development - Substitute HB 5606: AN  
ACT CONCERNING A REGIONAL FAIR HOUSING COMPACT PILOT  
PROGRAM.

Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

Planning and Development - HB 7573: AN ACT CONCERN-  
ING THE MODERATE RENTAL SALES PROGRAM.

Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

Planning and Development - Substitute HB 7591: AN  
ACT CREATING A LAND USE EDUCATION COUNCIL.

Referred to Government Administration and Elections.

Planning and Development - HB 7643: AN ACT CONCERN-  
ING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING IN THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

Education - Substitute HB 7645: AN ACT MAKING  
REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION LAWS.

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2287-2685

TUESDAY  
MAY 12, 1987

17 **2303**

513 is marked go, 514 is marked go, 515 is marked go, 516 Substitute for House Bill No. 5045, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

517 Substitute for House Bill No. 5350, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

On page 13, 518 is marked go, 519 go, 520 go, 521 go, oh I am sorry am I on the, no these are still double starred. Pardon me. 521 is marked go, 522 go. On page 14, at the top of the page, Calendar 523 is marked go, 524 Substitute for House Bill No. 5419, I move to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR O'LEARY:

525 is marked go, 526 House Bill No. 7636 on move to the Consent Calendar,

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

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Calendar 545, Senate Joint Resolution 69.

Calendar 546, Senate Joint Resolution Number 70.

Calendar page 5, Calendar page 433, Substitute  
for Senate Bill 1185.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 444, Substitute for  
House Bill 7309.

Calendar 452, House Bill 6426.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 493, Substitute for  
Senate Bill Number 791.

Calendar 494, Senate Bill 991.

Calendar page 9, Calendar 498, Senate Bill 532.

Calendar 501, Substitute for Senate Bill 710.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 516, Substitute for  
House Bill 5045.

Calendar 517, Substitute for House Bill 5350.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 524, Substitute for  
House Bill 5419.

Calendar 526, House Bill 7636.

And that is it for the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Any corrections? omissions? The machine  
is open. Please record your vote.

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**2383**

Has everyone voted? The machine is closed.  
Clerk , please tally the vote.

Result of the Vote:

35 Yea

0 Nay

The Consent Calendar is adopted.

THE CLERK:

Returning to Calendar page 7, Calendar 486, File 361,  
Substitute for House Bill 5770, AN ACT REQUIRING REGIS-  
TRARS OF VITAL STATISTICS TO NOTIFY REGISTRARS OF  
VOTERS OF VOTER DEATHS. Favorable Report of the  
Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Rinaldi, did you vote on the last vote,  
and was it recorded?

SENATOR RINALDI:

I voted in the affirmative, but it didn't...  
I think it didn't come out.

THE CHAIR:

Do you wish to be recorded now?

SENATOR RINALDI:

Yes..

THE CHAIR: