

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

HB 5348	PA 84	1996
Senate :	1902 - 1911, 2002 - 2003	(12)
House :	947 - 955, 1806 - 1810	(14)
G.A.E.	507-508, 524-526	(5)
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CONNECTICUT
GEN ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS

1996

VOL 39

PART 6

1702 2040

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fleming.

SEN. FLEMING:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. On the last bill, I absented myself under Rule 19. I meant Rule 15. Just for the record.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

SEN. FLEMING:

And that was on the advice of a high priced attorney back here.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

THE CLERK:

Page 8, Calendar 385, File 370 and 538, Substitute for HB5348, An Act Concerning the Designation of Certain Days, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A". Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections. The Clerk has two amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. I would move adoption

of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Senator Smith, one moment, please. Would the Senate please come to order. Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. This is again, my duty as Chairman of the Government Administration and Elections Committee to bring out bills of this nature. I have, meaning no disrespect to anybody who is of any heritage so noted in these bills. I will implore my colleagues again this year as I did last, to please not request these types of things. I think them inappropriate. However, I have experienced the wrath that comes down on people who attempt not to do these types of things.

So we have this year again, a variety of different bills designated a variety of different things. The bill in front of us designates a Romanian-American Day, a Taiwan-American Day, an Austrian-American Day, a Greek American-Day.

If the Clerk could please call LCO4648.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "A", LCO4648, introduced

by Senator Smith.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. I would move adoption of the amendment and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The amendment is in your possession. Please proceed.

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. This amendment would add to our list here a Hungarian Freedom Fighter Day and I would urge its adoption, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor indicate by saying "aye".

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Those opposed, "nay". Ayes have it. Senate "A" is adopted: Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Senator Sullivan.

SEN. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam President. I believe the Clerk

is in possession of LC04576 and I would ask the Clerk to read the amendment.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment Schedule "B", LC04576 introduced by Senator Sullivan.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sullivan. You did ask that it be read.

THE CLERK:

Entitled An Act Concerning the Designation of Certain Days. After line 37, insert the following:

NEW. Paragraph 38. The Governor shall proclaim April 1 of each year to be Extraterrestrial American Day to honor Americans of Extraterrestrial origin, their culture, and their great contribution made to this country. Suitable exercises shall be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the day.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sullivan, what is your pleasure?

SEN. SULLIVAN:

I thank the Clerk for his spirited reading. I had hoped in the goal of looking forward for a change on these worthy and landmark pieces of legislation, to offer that step today, but rather than waste any more time in this Chamber on this kind of legislation, I

would ask that that amendment be withdrawn.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further? Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Well, Madam President, not that there probably aren't people with constituencies that would like to be honored by that last amendment, if there are no further comments and questions, and if there's no objection, I would move this item to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gunther.

SEN. GUNTHER:

Madam President, I'd like to comment on the bill and that is favorably. I know it might sound like it's a joke, and I know that there's a complaint apparently that the time that we've taken on hearing these bills and getting them up here, but I'll tell you that when you go out to the ethnic groups that are throughout this state, after we have cited and given them a day commemorated for many things, many of them are the day of freedom for them, the day that they came out from under the thumb of the communist government or a suppressed government and that type of thing.

These people get one day a year to have it commemorated, that that is what they stand for. They get an opportunity to take and stand up in the state and quite often in the schools and in the libraries. They're cited through a proclamation of the Governor, citing them for their contributions to the United States and the greatness of the United States and we are known as a melting pot.

And every one of these ethnic groups contribute something. And I can cite for you probably best when we took and commemorated German-American Day. And I know that we haven't got people out there prancing in the street and running up and down with signs, but the people of German origin through two wars, through no fault of their own, rarely got an opportunity to stand up and say, look what I did for this country.

And yet, you look back at the history of the United States and find out the contributions that were made by the ethnic people who came over here, not during a war time but during the peace times and helped to build our country, the great discoveries that they discovered and produced and developed in this country and made this country great.

And since we pass that bill, every year on October 6th or near that date, they have a statewide dinner and

they go up there and they celebrate and say, by God, look, this is what I did, and I have a chance to crow a little bit. Rather than getting all the prick baths that they get over some of the confrontations we had between Germany and our country.

And many of those people, incidentally, that were brought over here during the wars, both in World War I and World War II quite often ended up drafted in the Army and had to go back and fight in their own homeland against their own homeland to defend the freedoms of the United States.

So, even though it might sound like a little joke, the people that are in these countries and from those countries, like that day to make a commemoration and sort of a revisiting of their heritage and I think that's something we shouldn't lose. We certainly should look back. It's in your DNA. You can't get rid of that and I think there's an awful lot of people that are very proud that they've had the opportunity to come to this country and help to develop this country.

Now there's another benefit that nobody pays any attention to here. Certainly I think and I've been critical of the State of Connecticut, not developing as much of the foreign trade as they have. When we commemorate these days, quite often that's one day that

these various countries, their counsel generals will get in touch with us and say, how terrific it is.

Connecticut was the first one in the country for German-American Day. We were the second one in the country for Polish-American Day last year. I don't know what level we're going to be entering into this business of commemorating it a day for a hyphenated American in this particular bill, but whatever it is, there's a helluva lot of plus on the other side, that certainly these countries that we're trying to get to do business with us, have something to say, Connecticut has recognized us. They have recognized our ethnic people living there and I think it's a big plus.

So as much as we might make a little funny here and there, and incidentally, Madam President, I'm certainly happy we didn't invite somebody up here to stand and possibly up on that podium while we were commemorating these days and passing this bill, that would have been an embarrassment as far as I'm concerned.

So, I don't think it's all fun and jokes as far as this is concerned. I don't think the time that we put in on this was that great that we couldn't afford to take that little time on these five items to bring it up here and commemorate it for the State of

Connecticut.

So, don't be afraid to take and request it. I haven't been afraid and I certainly hope that nobody else in the future says, oh, we don't want to do this. I think every ethnic group ought to get recognition and in fact, if you know anybody from Norwalk, the ethnic demonstration they have down there by one of the walls of I-95 that has all these plaques from the various ethnic groups hung up on that wall.

And let me tell you, the people down there in those various ethnic areas, go up there and are very proud to say, that's our heritage wall. We should have a heritage dedication for the entire State of Connecticut for every one of the hyphenated Americans. I think they deserve it and I support this very strongly.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Madam President, as always, Senator Gunther has presented the opposing point of view with his normal panache and if there's no objection, I would still suggest this being moved to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is to remove this item to the Consent Calendar. Without objection, so ordered.

THE CLERK:

Page 8, Calendar 386, File 372, Substitute for HB5350, An Act Concerning National Children's Day.
Favorable Report of the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

Thank you, Madam President. I would move adoption of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Question is on passage. Will you remark?

SEN. SMITH:

Yes, Madam President. This is a day designation for National Children's Day and it's a coordinated nationwide effort and I would move passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Smith.

SEN. SMITH:

If there's no objection, Madam President, I would

Calendar. Will all Senators return to the Chamber.

Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. A roll call vote on the Consent Calendar is about to take place.

- Page 2, SB 451 Calendar 162.
- Page 8, HB 5348 HB 5350 Calendar 385 and 386.
- Page 9, SB 404 Calendar 396.
- Page 10, SB 395 SB 424 Calendar 408 and 409.
- Page 11, SB 473 Calendar 410.
- Page 16, SB 204 SB 354 Calendar 169 and 172.
- Page 17, SB 259 Calendar 225.
- Page 18, SB 483 SB 661 SB 397 Calendar 282, 288 and 310.

THE CHAIR:

Would the Clerk please announce a roll call vote.

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call on the Consent Calendar in the Senate. All Senators return to the Chamber.

An immediate roll call in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Senator Penn. Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. The Clerk please take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Total number voting, 35; necessary for passage, 18. Those voting "yea", 35; those voting "nay", zero.

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is adopted. Senator Fleming.

SEN. FLEMING:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, on Senate Agenda No. 1, I'd like to ask the Clerk to call HJR82. Would the Clerk please call and read.

THE CLERK:

From Senate Agenda No. 1, HJR82, LC02547 introduced by Representative Ritter, Lyons, Ward, Gelsi, Padelli, Senator Eads, Fleming, DiBella and Freedman.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fleming.

SEN. FLEMING:

Yes, Madam President. I'd like to move adoption of the Resolution and then ask that the Clerk please read the Resolution.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Would the Clerk please read.

THE CLERK:

H-744

CONNECTICUT
GEN ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
1996

VOL 39

PART 3

661-1047

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3

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

STRAW, JR.

SPEAKER RITTER:

That will be tabled for the Calendar and printing.

CLERK:

Also a List of Favorable Reports on House bills.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Lyons.

REP. LYONS: (146TH)

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would waive the reading of the List and that they be tabled for the Calendar and printing.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Seeing no objection, it will be so ordered.

CLERK:

The only other business, Mr. Speaker, is today's Calendar.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Then let's get on with the Calendar. Let's start with Calendar 300.

CLERK:

The State of Connecticut House of Representatives
Calendar for Wednesday, April 10, 1996. On page 8,

Calendar 300, Substitute for House Bill Number 5438, AN AB5348

ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN DAYS.

Favorable Report of the Committee on Government

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4

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER RITTER:

The Honorable Chair of that committee from the 100th District, Representative Bysiewicz. You have the floor, Madam.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

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

SPEAKER RITTER:

The motion is on acceptance and passage. Please proceed, Madam.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 3141.

SPEAKER RITTER:

The Clerk has amendment LCO 3141 which will be designated House "A". If he may call it and read it. Why don't we have him read it?

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CLERK:

LCO Number 3141, House "A" offered by Representative Bysiewicz and Senator Gunther. In line 30 after "year" insert the following: ", the day that

gmh

5

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

Greeks celebrate as Greek Independence Day."

SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Bysiewicz.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark further, Madam?

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

It is purely technical.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Would anybody care to remark? If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Opposed, no. The ayes clearly have it. Would you remark further on this bill, as amended by House "A"?

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill would recognize Americans of Austrian, Greek, Rumanian, and Chinese, Taiwanese ancestry and I move adoption, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Will you remark further? Representative Prelli.

gmh

6

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you, a question to the Chairman of the GAE Committee.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Please proceed.

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

Representative Bysiewicz, is it planned that we are going to call Calendar Number 299 sometime today?

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Are you referring to the act concerning Children's Day?

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

Yes, I am.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Through the Chair, please.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Yes.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Prelli.

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, and members of the Assembly, Calendar number 299 is another bill that just designates another day. I have an amendment and if the Clerk would please call and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER RITTER:

gmh

7

House of Representatives Wednesday, April 10, 1996

What bill -- what is the --

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

I am sorry. LCO Number 3541.

SPEAKER RITTER:

The Clerk has amendment LCO 3541, which will be designated -- we don't have the amendments over here, sir. Okay, why don't we stand at ease and distribute the amendments. Why don't we make sure that one gets to Representative Bysiewicz right away as it might expedite some time.

Are you ready? Representative Prelli.

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment just takes House Bill 5350, which is File 299 and it moves it into this bill. It is the exact -- it is the exact same language, it is just to try to make things a little easier as things move between chambers. And I move its adoption.

SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark further? Representative Bysiewicz.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the separate bill, I believe 5350 on National Children's Day comes to us from Senator

gmh

8

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

Eads and Representative Norton. I don't mind if you want to put your amendment on. It will take their bill off our agenda and that is fine with me if it is okay with them.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Bysiewicz, I failed to -- I failed to have the Clerk call the amendment. So why don't we just have the Clerk officially call LCO 3541. We will keep all this great debate in our public records.

CLERK:

LCO Number 3541, House "B" offered by
Representative Prelli.

SPEAKER RITTER:

We will just -- parliamentary. Everything is properly before us. The debate, we don't need to go over the debate again. Representative Bysiewicz and Representative Prelli, you have the floor, sir.

REP. PRELLI: (63RD)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With Representative Bysiewicz's fine explanation, I think I would ask leave of the Chamber to withdraw my amendment.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Is there any objection to withdrawing the
amendment and why don't we have House "B" will be
hereby withdrawn.

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9

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

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

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100TH)

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want the record to reflect that I was defending a piece of legislation by Senator Eads and Representative Norton.

SPEAKER RITTER:

When we see Senator Smith's name on it, we will really give you applause.

Anybody else? If not -- Representative Sauer.

REP. SAUER: (36TH)

I plan to vote against this amendment -- against the bill. It just seems that we, each year, add more and more days that we want to recognize and they are all worthy causes and they are all wonderful nations, and I want to honor all of those people, but it just seems that at some point we have to draw the line and concentrate on business that is essential to the nature of our work.

Thank you.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Madam. Anybody else? Representative Powers.

REP. POWERS: (151ST)

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would just rise to note

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10

House of Representatives

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

for the record that this is a bipartisan bill covering a number of nationalities and I would urge bipartisan support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Thank you, Madam. Anybody else? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. The machine will be opened.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber, please.

SPEAKER RITTER:

Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call machine to make sure that your vote is properly cast. Have all members voted and is your vote properly cast? If it has, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will please take the tally.

Clerk, please announce the tally.

CLERK:

House Bill 5348, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A".

Total Number Voting	130
Necessary for Passage	66
Those Voting Yea	126
Those Voting Nay	4

House of Representatives Wednesday, April 10, 1996

Those absent and not Voting 20

SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill, as amended passes. At this time, Points of Personal Privilege. I would be happy -- Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN: (18TH)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a Point of Personal Privilege.

SPEAKER RITTER:

One second, Representative Fleischmann. I know we are all a-buzz with our expected guest coming at one thirty, and the fact that we will have thirty-six senators in the room with us, but why don't we try our best to have our conversations taken outside, particularly a lot of the discussions that we are having with staff. If they could be taken outside. The Chamber will stand at ease until you are ready to conduct business.

Really, let's -- we are going to have to have all staff members please leave the back of the Chamber, please. Why don't we have all staff members and all guests, other than those people working on the back, please come to the well of the House or outside and we are not going to continue until that occurs. Unless you are working the floor or working the back room or a

H-747

CONNECTICUT
GEN. ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
1996

VOL. 39
PART 6
1755-2147

House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Bill as amended is passed. Clerk please call
Calendar 300.

CLERK:

On page forty-four, Calendar 300, substitute for
HB5348. AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN
DAYS. As amended by House Amendment Schedule "A" and
Senate Amendment Schedule "A." Favorable report of the
Committee on Government Administration and Elections.
The Senate adopted Senate Amendment Schedule "A" on
April 18th.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Representative Bysiewicz, you have the floor
Madam.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100th)

Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker I move for
acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report
and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

The motion is on acceptance and passage in
concurrence with the Senate. Will you remark Madam?

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100th)

Yes. Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker the
Clerk has a Senate Amendment LCO 4648.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

The Clerk has LCO 4648 Senate Amendment "A" will

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126

House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

the Clerk please call.

CLERK:

LCO 4648, Senate "A" offered by Senator Smith.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Representative has asked leave to summarize, proceed Madam, without objection.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100th)

Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this amendment would add Hungarian Freedom Fighters to be recognized along with the other groups that are already designated in this bill and I move it's adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Question is adoption will you remark on Senate "A?" Will you remark on Senate "A?" Representative Powers.

REP. POWERS: (151st)

Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise in support of the amendment which unfortunately got lost in the shuffle with all the other days, and I strongly urge bipartisan support. I would like to yield to Representative Dickman, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Thank you Representative Powers, Representative Dickman, do you accept the yield sir?

REP. DICKMAN: (132nd)

House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Thank you Madam Speaker. Yes I accept the yield. I do rise to speak in favor of this day, it came here as a resolution, and the House no longer does resolutions, so this was added in the Senate and it's a very good amendment and I hope it will pass.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

I thank you sir. Representative Sawyer, you have the floor madam. Representative Sauer of the 36th, pardon me, you have the floor.

REP. SAUER: (36th)

Thank you, no disrespect to the Hungarian Freedom Fighters, but in order to be consistent I will vote against this as I have voted against all the other days by the Senate, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Thank you Madam. Will you remark further on the amendment? Representative Mushinsky, of the 85th you have the floor Madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY: (85th)

Thank you Madam Speaker. As one of two members of the Hungarian American Caucus along with Representative Samowitz, I do support the amendment and hope it will pass.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Thank you Madam. Representative Keeley, you have

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001809
128

House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

the floor sir.

REP. KEELEY: (125th)

Madam Speaker, thank you very much in Hungarian. I too rise in support of this bill. There are a number of us who are Hungarian by marriage, including Representative Carl Dickman and a few others. I'd like to thank all of those here in the room today in advance for their support because in 1956 there was a tremendous revolution led by the Hungarian Freedom Fighters and we have in Fairfield and Bridgeport the largest number of Hungarians located on the entire east coast. I'm very happy today, good-bye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Thank you sir. Will you remark further on Senate "A?" If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor please indicate by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Those opposed nay, the ayes have it, the amendment is adopted, ruled technical. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Bysiewicz.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (100th)

I move adoption Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

The question is adoption, will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests please come to the well, members take your seat, the machine will be open.

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call, members to the Chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Have all the members voted? Is your vote properly recorded? If so the machine will be locked. The Clerk will please take a tally. The Clerk will please announce the tally.

CLERK:

HB5348 as amended by House "A" and Senate "A" in concurrence with the Senate

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	3
Those absent and not voting	6

DEPUTY SPEAKER HARTLEY:

Bill as amended is passed. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 209.

CLERK:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION
AND
ELECTIONS
PART 2**

369-741

1996

49
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GAE COMMITTEE

March 4, 1996

REP. BYSIEWICZ: (Inaudible - microphone not turned on)

RONALD THOMAS: Good afternoon, Senator Smith, Representative Byciewicz, and other members of the GAE Committee. I must admit you have some of the most interesting proposals before the General Assembly. It's been a real interesting afternoon.

I'm Ron Thomas with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and I'm here to talk about a couple of bills that concern the cities and towns.

One is RB394, concerning an additional year for CAMA funding. CCM supports that additional year of funding.

RB397, however, presents another set of problems which is why CCM cannot support the bill. We oppose it.

CCM believes that assessors might find it difficult to file their exempt accounts a month earlier from September to August as the bill would require. Moreover, CCM opposes the language which would require cities and towns to pay court costs when losing an appeal. Municipalities would be charged if they lose the appeal, but the state would not be charged.

We believe this is very unbalanced and unfair. And, therefore, we cannot support 397. I thank you for your time and consideration.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Questions from committee members? Thank you. Next we have Jim Boesch followed by Anthony Homicki to be followed by Nick Paindiris.

JIM BOESCH: Good afternoon. I brought some facts on HB 5348 Romania and I left them to have them be distributed for your information. This bill I think pales in comparison to the \$7 billions of dollars that the controller comes and talks to you about, but I do think -- our Treasurer, but I do think it does relate to an important thing, and that's the jobs that we can bring to the State of Connecticut.

My relationship with the country of Romania began

shortly after the revolution and the overthrow of the dictator in 1989. Consequently, being a former elected official, I really enjoyed this education of experiencing an emerging country moving forward into the democratic process.

It is also important for me to point out to you that one of the universal statements that is made by almost all Romanians is we have been waiting for the Americans to come for over 50 years.

As a matter of fact, much of the new Constitution and many of the new laws already passed have been patterned against similar American legislation. Let me emphasize again, that the Romanian people want to be good friends and partners with Americans.

Additionally, we have many visitors and government officials who have visited Connecticut and developed a strong favorable relationship. I believe properly cultivated the relationship will bring excellent economic relations for the people of both Connecticut and Romania.

Governor Belahoyanova (phonetic) came here in May of 1995, was introduced to the House members and spoke to the members of the Senate. His message was clear: we Romanians and specifically citizens of the county of Prohova (phonetic) are committed to projects that will bring jobs to Connecticut, and ultimately return many jobs to Prohova, Romania.

Together with the assistance of many legislatures, most notably Representatives Amann and Boukus and Senator Gunther, this process is moving positively forward.

Voting in favor of bill HB5348 enacting December 1st as Romanian-American Day in the State of Connecticut, I view this as another positive step to keep the relationship moving forward. Consequently I ask you for your support of this bill.

REP. BYSIEWICZ: Okay. Any further questions from

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HB 5348

March 4, 1996

To: Members of the General Administration & Elections Committee
Legislature, State of Connecticut
Hartford, Ct. 06103

Dear Legislators;

I am providing a list of excellent reasons for Connecticut businesses and legislators to explore the business possibilities in the Country of Romania: I also believe that voting in favor of **ROMANIAN - AMERICAN DAY** is an essential step in positively building this process.

1. **Democratic Government**
Since the Revolution in late 1989, Romania has effected a government committed to democracy including privatization and free market principles
2. **Laws in place to protect businesses**
The government has passed strong legislative statutes to protect both domestic and foreign businesses who wish to establish themselves in Romania.
3. **Low World Debt**
Romania has some excellent world demand resources such as refined oil products, cement, urea, and agricultural products. They are also people who are extremely conservative by nature. When many of the newly emerging nations borrowed up to their limits to get their countries "in order", Romania did not borrow heavily. Consequently, today has one of the lowest world debts and is in an excellent position to secure world bank and other expanding funds that are not as easily available to the other countries. This is not to say that Romania does not have a problem with inflation, it does, but the inflation problem is controlled a lot better than most of the Eastern European countries.
4. **Tax advantages established to entice foreign businesses**
The government by legislative action, provides that new businesses in Romania, especially those who engage in manufacturing, can enjoy up to five years, without paying taxes on profits.
5. **Beautiful Country**
Most people do not know that prior to World War II Romania was the number one toured country in all of Europe. It has many mountain ranges already equipped with gondolas for skiing and hiking, has beautiful beach areas on the Black Sea, and is blessed with a very rich soil. Consequently, currently has many resorts, hotels and casinos operating. These areas are easily accessed by both rail, bus and auto.

Page 2

6. **Excellent Location**

Romania is located on the "doorstep" to all of the Eastern European Countries, and has direct access to them, it also has access to the all Western Europe by truck, railroad, and barge by the Danube that runs from Constanza throughout Western Europe. It also has direct access to China by the Orient Express rail line, and all the Far Eastern countries by the sea and the Transiberian rail line that goes all the way to Vladivostock, Russia's most eastern port.

7. **Excellent Harbor/Port**

The port of Constanza is a port that will accept up to 50,000 metric ton ships. There are only two of this size in the Black Sea. It is modern and equipped with all the necessary equipment to provide quick loading and unloading conditions.

8. **Huge Consumer Demand**

Since independence has come to al of the Eastern European Countries, there is obviously a huge consumer demand for all kinds of products, especially what we consider basics. Many of these demands are for products we in the U.S. have enjoyed for over 50 years yet have not existed in this area. With the advent of privatization and "entrepreneurism", most of the items we have come to expect in America, are new and welcomed in the E.E. countries and particularly Romania.

9. **Fast Growing Economy/Huge Opportunities**

Romania's economy is growing at an unbelievable pace mostly due I believe, to the conservative approach the government has exercised in expanding it's economy. **The opportunities are tremendous.** Many times I have heard the comment, "If I only could go back in time knowing what I know today, I could make a fortune." In my opinion that is exactly the opportunity that exists in Romania today. But make no mistake about it, if you are not located there to do business, you will be at a tremendous disadvantage.

10. **Highest Literacy Rate in World**

Romania has a literacy rate of 98.5 %, the highest in the world. English is also a part of the educational curriculum. It is not spoken widely yet mainly because Americans and/or English speaking people have not borne a presence in Romania yet but certainly English is spoken more readily everyday. This means that finding well educated, highly qualified people for work, will be a great deal more accessible. The Romanian Language is a Romance language, the only non slavik based language in all of the Eastern European countries.

11. **Low Wages**

The current average monthly wage in Romania is between \$100 to \$150 U.S. equivalent dollars. Site costs are extremely low as well as utilities. Consequently, Romania offers an extremely profitable opportunity for those companies wishing to set up their businesses in that country.