

Bill No. 246

Page 1 of 3

Referred to Committee on *Government Administration and Policy*

LCO No. 630

Introduced by SEN. SMITH - 2nd District

General Assembly,

January Session, A.D., 1971

AN ACT CONCERNING FISCAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THE HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SECTION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Notwithstanding any statute, local ordinances or charter provision to the contrary, the court of common council of the city of Hartford may by vote, cause a referendum to be held by the electors of Hartford, or upon petition of ten per cent of the electors of Hartford, the mayor of Hartford shall call for a referendum to be held not more than thirty days after receipt of such petition, for the purpose of determining whether to grant the local board of education the authority to establish a school tax rate.

Sec. 2. The fiscal year for the board of education granted the authority to establish a school tax rate shall be identical to the fiscal year of the city of Hartford.

Sec. 3. If the electors of Hartford approve, by vote pursuant to section 1 of this act, the authority of such board of education to establish a school tax rate in such community, such board shall hold a public meeting, at which itemized estimates of the expenditures of such board for the ensuing fiscal year, prepared by the superintendent of schools, shall be presented and at which all persons shall be heard in regard to any appropriation which they are desirous that the board shall recommend or reject. The board shall, after such public hearing, hold an executive session at which it shall consider the

estimates so presented and any other matters brought to its attention and shall thereupon prepare and cause to be published in a newspaper in such community, if any, otherwise in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in such community, a report in a form prescribed by the tax commissioner, containing:

(1) An itemized statement of all actual receipts from all sources of such board during its last fiscal year; (2) an itemized statement by classification of all actual expenditures during the same year; (3) an itemized estimate of anticipated revenues during the ensuing year from each sources other than from local school taxes and an estimate of the amount which should be raised by local school taxation for such ensuing fiscal year; (4) an itemized estimate of expenditures of such board of such ensuing fiscal year; and (5) the amount of revenue surplus or deficit of the board at the beginning of the fiscal year for which estimates are being prepared. The board shall take action upon such estimate and recommendations, and make such specific appropriations as appear advisable. Two months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the board shall adopt its budget and establish a tax rate as shall be sufficient in addition to the other estimated yearly income of the board, as may be appropriated, to pay the expenses of the board for such fiscal year.

Sec. 4. The school tax, if fiscal independence is approved by referendum, shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as are the property taxes for Hartford.

Sec. 5. Said board, granted such authority, may select and purchase property, and may purchase, lease or rent buildings, for school purposes, and build, add to, equip and organize a school or schools. In connection with bond issues for the financing thereof, the said board shall have the same powers and subject to the same limitations and follow similar procedures as the court of common council. This act does not authorize the increase of the limitation on the total bonded indebtedness otherwise permitted by law of the city of Hartford.

Sec. 6. Said board shall have authority to receive, credit and disburse funds from federal, state and other lawful sources of school purposes.

Sec. 7. The town, city or borough financial officers shall handle the funds of said board, as agent and custodian of such funds for the board.

Sec. 8. To the extent that any of the provisions of this act are interpreted to be in conflict with other provisions of the general statutes or with any provisions of any special act, the provisions of this act shall take precedence.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To allow the city of Hartford, if it desires, to grant fiscal independence to its board of education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets and proposed additions are all capitalized, or underlined where appropriate.]