

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

## PA 17-21

SB833

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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  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2017**

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3997 – 4474**

ph  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 23, 2017

like my vote to be recorded in the affirmative on  
the last vote.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The journal will so note.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Are there any other announcements or  
introductions? Will the Clerk please call House  
Calendar 437.

CLERK:

On page 28, House Calendar 437, Senate Bill No.  
833, AN ACT CONCERNING BEE INSPECTIONS. Favorable  
report of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Environment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Demicco.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The question before this Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Would you remark?

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill would put into statute some of the recommendations of the Agricultural Experiment Station. These recommendations were called for by legislation that we passed last session in the Pollinator Health Bill, as my colleagues will recall. It makes changes to the current statute with regards to registration of beehives, inspection of beehives, and the sale of beehives. These are all recommendations from the Agricultural Experiment Station, pursuant to last year's legislation and I would ask my colleagues to lend this bill their support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, so, will you remark further on this bill? Will you remark further? Representative Harding of the 107th, you have the floor.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I may, a few questions to the proponent.  
DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I'm looking at the second paragraph here, it says, "Each person owning one or more hives of bees shall upon acquisition of such bees," and that seems to be language that we've added into this new particular bill, which is different from the prior language, which originally required individuals to annually register these beehives.

I'm just a little confused on what the protocols are for that? There seems to be no deadline for the amount of time that is given for that individual that acquires the beehive to register it; is there a certain deadline that the good proponent is aware of for that?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Demicco.

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REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am not aware of any deadline, Mr. Speaker. I would imagine that the state entomologist has some kind of policy with regards to that, which will be made known to the people, to the beekeeper population.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, so the current law now mandates that an individual report every October 1st or by October 1st with a report regarding how many beehives they have and other aspects of their beehives, et cetera. So, if an individual were to say or acquire a beehive on September 29th, would they be mandated to report two different reports or is one, is just one fine?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Demicco.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned previously, I believe that the state entomologist would work out or has some kind of policy with regards to that, which the bill does not contemplate.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the proponent for his answer on that. That is a section that I think really needs to be addressed by the state entomologist or the Department of Agriculture, one of the two. And I would hope that either through another bill, maybe this session, through a tech bill or possibly through regulations from the Department of Agriculture itself, they can address that specifically because there seems to be a little bit of ambiguity in regards to when the regulation should occur and if submitting just one report, if it was in a close enough period of time to the

annual report of October 1st, whether that would suffice. So, I really look forward to the Department of Agriculture clarifying that through regulation later on.

If the good proponent, through you, Mr. Speaker, could explain some of the other sections of the bill in regards to what advances there are in this bill in regards to what the bee inspector can inspect now as opposed to what simply could be inspected prior to this?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Demicco.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker. Under current law, the state entomologist has the right and the responsibility of inspecting beehives for disease, which could spread, you know, quite rapidly to other beehives and cause a real problem. So, what this legislation does is it extends the reasons for inspection to include not only disease, but also infestation of insects that would be harmful to the



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bee population.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the proponent for his explanation. That's a critical aspect. I think, as I mentioned before, there are some procedural issues that need to be slashed out by the Department of Agriculture, which I believe it can be done through regulation or other means. With that said, the substance of the bill makes a lot of sense. It helps to address some of the issues we're having in the bee population in regard to some of the infestation issues. And this gives the inspectors a little more latitude in regarding to protecting that population and was the recommendation of the study. So, it makes a lot of sense. I hope to have my colleagues also support me in the passage of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

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Thank you, sir. Would you remark further?  
Representative Yaccarino of the 87th, you have the  
floor, sir.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening. One  
question to the good proponent of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

An important piece of legislation for our bee  
colonies because they really are a pulse of our  
environment. Through you, Mr. Speaker. I'm reading  
the bill, but I know this past year there was some  
talk of removing in our budget the state bee  
inspector from the experimental station. Has this  
component potentially helped keep that person in  
their position?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Demicco.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know that

the bill, you know, would do that necessarily. But I would assume that due to the heightened awareness of the importance of healthy bee population here in the State of Connecticut and throughout the country, I hope that that heightened awareness and recognition would do what the good gentleman contemplates.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Thank you for that answer and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very important that we look forward that we do keep this person in the place. We have other inspectors, but there is one head beekeeper inspector in the experimental station. And I think it's important because if we're going to have these inspections, we need somebody to report the issues and it really helps the beekeeper and it really helps the folks that raise bees or have colonies. So, I would hope you support this legislation. I give the ranking member a lot of

credit in this legislation and the good Chair in Environment. And it's something that you don't think of, but it's very important for our environment. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to these two-fine gentlemen. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Tweedie of the 13th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. TWEEDIE (13TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just have a comment on the bill. You know, I think a lot of people don't really understand the importance of bees other than, you know, they think that they're beautiful around flowers until you get stung by them or whatnot. But 70 of the top 100 human food crops, and that supplies 90 percent of the world's nutrition, are pollinated by bees. So, the importance of healthy bees and of making sure that we're doing the right thing for this to continue that the bee population stabilize and stay healthy is a very important thing and I definitely support

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this bill and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further? If not, will staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members please take your seats. The machine will be open. (Ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Please check the board to ensure that your vote has been properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Bill 833.

Total Number of Voting 149

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Necessary for Passage	75
Those Voting Yea	149
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

[Gavel]

Will the Clerk call Calendar 61?

CLERK:

On page 2, House Calendar 61, House Bill No. 6123, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREE REMOVAL ALONG LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

Representative D'Agostino of the 91st, you have the floor, sir.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER CANDELARIA (95TH):

The question before the Chamber is the Joint

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**CONNECTICUT  
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SENATE**

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Senate

33  
April 19, 2017

THE CHAIR:

No. I think we have to call for Roll Call vote. At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for Roll Call vote and machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in The Senate.  
Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in The Senate.

THE CHAIR:

All members have voted, all members have voted. The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill No. 848.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	2
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 16, Calendar 144, Senate Bill No. 833. AN  
ACT CONCERNING BEE INSPECTIONS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kennedy.



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Senate

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April 19, 2017

SENATOR KENNEDY (12TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR KENNEDY (12TH):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR KENNEDY (12TH):

Just very briefly. This body may remember last year we passed the nation's most comprehensive pollinator protection bill in the country and one of the provisions was to ask the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to come up with some important recommendations for the state entomologist and this bill comes before us by the Agricultural Experiment Station and the state entomologist. It's a technical bill, but it will provide small but important recommendations to allow the state bee inspector to proactively inspect hives and address issues of the varroa mites, which are an important contributing factor. The dramatic decline in pollinators, which of course, impacts our ability to grow food and our agricultural economy. So, I think this is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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Senate

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April 19, 2017

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark further? Thank you --

SENATOR MINER (30TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I concur with the comments of my Co-Chair with regard to this bill. Madam President, the importation of bees is a very common practice in the state of Connecticut. This bill does provide an opportunity to request, require a health certificate. It also sets about an increase in the fee, actually, for registering your bees. One of the biggest problems we have is that bees are kind of in the decline, and we also don't know exactly why. And, so whether it's tracheal mites, whether it's foulbrood; there are a number of things that a bee inspector would inspect for. This is an important bill. It doesn't look like much, but I also support it. Madam President, I would ask, if without objection, that it be moved to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered. sir. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 18, Calendar 159, Senate Bill No. 816. A N  
ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE UNIFORM  
COMMERCIAL CODE TO CERTAIN FUNDS TRANSFERS UNDER THE  
ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER ACT.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle. Good afternoon, sir.

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Senate

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SENATOR DUFF (25<sup>TH</sup>):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, can I ask the clerk to call the Consent Calendar for today? But, before we do that, if I can take an item off the Consent Calendar, please? It'd be Calendar No. 181, Substitute for Senate Bill 900 and mark that item PT.

THE CHAIR:

That's calendar 181, sir?

SENATOR DUFF (25<sup>TH</sup>):

Yes. Calendar 181, page 22. Substitute for Senate Bill 900.

THE CHAIR:

It's been taken off and marked PT.

SENATOR DUFF (25<sup>TH</sup>):

Thank you, Madam President. And, if the clerk could now read the items on the Consent Calendar No. 1 and followed by a vote of the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1 for today. On page 1, Calendar 251 House Joint Resolution No. 106. Calendar 252, House Joint Resolution No. 107. On page 2, Calendar 252, House Joint Resolution No.

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108. Calendar 254, House Joint Resolution No. 109.  
Calendar 255, House Joint Resolution No. 110.  
Calendar 256, House Joint Resolution No. 111. On  
page 4, Calendar 71, Senate Bill 762. Page 5,  
Calendar 78, Senate Bill No. 834. On page 6,  
Calendar 87, Senate Bill 867. Page 9, Calendar 110,  
Senate Bill 353. On page 15, Calendar 138, Senate  
Bill No. 798. Page 16, Calendar 144, Senate Bill  
833. On page 18, Calendar 159, Senate Bill 816.  
Page 19, Calendar 163, Senate Bill 839. Page 23,  
Calendar 185, Senate Bill 946. Calendar 189, Senate  
Bill No. 961. Page 24, Calendar 191, Senate Bill  
968.

THE CHAIR:

At this time, seeing no objection, the machine will be open. Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar?

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1 for today. Immediate Roll Call ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? All members have voted? The machine shall be closed. Mr. Clerk will you please call a tally.

THE CLERK:

On Consent Calendar No. 1.

Total number voting

36

aw  
Senate

51  
April 19, 2017

Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes. At this time, are there points of personal privilege? Senator Gerratana.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, for purposes of an announcement.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, ma'am.

SENATOR GERRATANA (6TH):

Thank you, Madam. The Public Health Committee will hold a committee meeting tomorrow, Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. outside the house chamber. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you very much. Are there any other points of personal privilege or announcements? Any other -- Senator Duff. Senator Duff. Senator Duff. There's no other points of personal privilege.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that concludes our business for today.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT  
PART 2  
453 – 1095**

**2017**

## PUBLIC HEARING

SENATOR MINER (30TH): Any -- any other questions?  
Thank you. Thank you all for being here.

REP. MACLACHLAN (35TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MINER (30TH): Henry Talmage.

SB 834  
HB 7066  
HENRY TALMAGE: Good afternoon, Senator Miner,  
Representative Demicco, members of the Environment  
Committee. My name is Henry Talmage. I'm the  
executive director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau  
and I represent the 4,000 families dedicated to the  
farming and future of Connecticut agriculture.

I come here before you today in support of four  
bills in today's hearing. First, Raised Bill Number  
7068, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-  
PROFIT FARMERS IN THE WIC AND SENIOR FARMERS'  
MARKET NUTRITION VOUCHERS PROGRAM. Connecticut Farm  
Bureau supports this bill which makes permanent the  
pilot program that was established, authorizing no  
more than three not-for-profit farmers engaged in  
marketing of Connecticut grown farm products and  
participation in the Connecticut -- Connecticut  
farmers market, WIC and the Connecticut farmers  
market senior nutrition program.

So we -- we think it's a good idea to make this --  
make this permanent. We'd also suggest to be  
consistent with the farmers market farm -- farm of  
origin labeling bill that was passed last year that  
the -- the provisions of that be applied to these  
non-profit farms as well and so we're -- we're in  
favor of that 7068.

Also, speak in favor of Raised Bill 833, AN ACT  
CONCERNING BEE INSPECTIONS. We recommend that that  
bill be passed if it's raised as per the  
recommendations of the Connecticut Ag Experiment

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cf

February 22, 2017  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 12:00 P.M.  
PUBLIC HEARING

Station, both in -- increasing registrations and also increasing the penalties for noncompliance.

Raised Bill 834. AN ACT CONCERNING GRACE PERIODS FOR THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. We're in favor of this bill as it specifies legislative appointments to the Forest Practices Advisory Board as you heard from Commissioner Klee, provide for grace periods for certified forest practitioners and pesticide applicators on their licenses if they're not renewed in time and before they're considered noncompliant. And also allows for the certified foresters to take the Society of American Foresters Exam and be certified without having to take the Connecticut-specific exam. I think both of those last two provisions could save both administratively and also on participants in the -- in the program.

Finally, Raised Bill 7066. AN ACT CONTAINING -- CONCERNING MINOR CHANGES TO THE POULTRY DEALERS, LICENSING STATUTE REGISTRATION OF POULTRY FLOCKS AND THE LABELING OF FARM STAND EGGS. We do support the bill as it's presented this year which allows for voluntary registration of the flocks with the Department of Agriculture and placement of the flocks in the National Poultry Improvement Plan program. We feel that program, which is a joint industry state, and federal program provides technical and management provisions standards will help in the case of an outbreak or in the case of tracking and protecting the -- the poultry industry. So with that, I stop and happy to answer any questions you might have.



February 22, 2017

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, a statewide nonprofit membership organization representing 4,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco and members of the Environment Committee,

Testimony in support of:

**Raised Bill No. 7068 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-PROFIT FARMERS IN THE WIC AND SENIOR FARMER'S MARKET NUTRITION VOUCHERS PROGRAM.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports Raised Bill No. 7068 which makes permanent the program established in the existing pilot program of authorizing no more than three not-for-profit farmers engaged in marketing Connecticut-Grown farm products to participate as vendors in the CT Farmers Market/Women, Infants and Children Program and the CT Farmers Market/Senior Nutrition Program. We would also suggest that the CT Farmers Market Farm-of-Origin labeling requirement be extended to this program as well in order to provide consumers with farm-of-origin information and to enable the Department of Agriculture to better monitor compliance with the program.

**Raised Bill No. 833 AN ACT CONCERNING BEE INSPECTIONS.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports Raised Bill No. 833 as it increases requirements for the registration of hives and it increases the penalties for non-compliance as recommended by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

**Raised Bill No. 834 AN ACT CONCERNING GRACE PERIODS FOR THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports Raised Bill No. 834 as it specifies Legislative Appointments to the Forest Practices Advisory Board. It also provides for a grace period for Certified Forest Practitioners to renew their licenses before they are considered non-compliant. The bill also allows Certified Foresters who have successfully passed the voluntary Society of American Foresters exam to be certified in Connecticut without having to take the Connecticut exam.

**Raised Bill No. 7066 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR CHANGES TO THE POULTRY DEALERS LICENSING STATUTE, REGISTRATION OF POULTRY FLOCKS AND THE LABELING OF FARM STAND EGGS.**

The Connecticut Farm Bureau supports the changes contained in Raised Bill No. 7066 as it allows poultry owners to voluntarily register their flock with the Department of Agriculture and place their flock in the National Poultry Improvement Plan program. This will allow for better monitoring and control of potential avian diseases.