

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 17-4

SB798

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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2017**

**VOL.60
PART 7
2634 – 3072**

pjf
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

145
May 10, 2017

Please proceed, sir.

REP. MACLACHLAN (35TH):

Thank you, sir. We have a birthday boy in the House today, hailing from the far reaches of lower Connecticut River Valley, representing the 23rd District, the great towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, lower half of Westbrook and Old Saybrook, Representative Devin Carney. Let's give it up for him, ladies and gentlemen. [applause and cheering]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Happy Birthday Representative Carney. As a member of the southeastern delegation, I can tell you, you're really aging gracefully. [laughing]. Any other introductions or announcements? Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 435.

CLERK:

On page 38, Calendar 435. Substitute Senate Bill No. 798, AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE OR THE MOHEGAN TRIBE OF

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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INDIANS OF CONNECTICUT. Favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Verrengia, you have the floor, sir.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Good afternoon. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptable of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Verrengia, you have the floor.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Mr. Speaker, this makes a minor change to the underlying bill. It allows for our tribal police departments to enter into mutual aid agreements with municipalities on the same terms and conditions as municipalities concurrently do under existing law.

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Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Will you remark further on the bill that's before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? Representative Sredzinski of the 112th. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very straightforward bill, it's passed our committee unanimously. It is very common sense, a good bill, it ought to pass.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members please take you seats and the machine will be opened. [bell 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 RYAN (139TH):

Members while you're in the Chamber, we are going to be doing a number of bills right in a row, so you may want to stay close by so the votes will go quickly.

Once again, we're asking members to stay close to the Chamber as the next few votes should be coming pretty quickly.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

If all the members have voted, please check the board to ensure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked. The clerk will take a tally. The clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill No. 798

Total number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those Voting Yea	146
Those Voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	5

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SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The bill passes. [gavel]

Will the clerk please call Calendar No. 421.

CLERK:

On page 36, Calendar No. 421. Substitute House
Bill No. 7196, AN ACT CONCERNING NONADVERSARIAL
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE. Favorable report of the
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The fine Representative of the great city of
Bridgeport, Representative Stafstrom of the 129th.
You have the floor, sir.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Good
to see you up there, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good to see you my friend.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

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

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2017**

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379 – 798**

aw
Senate

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April 19, 2017

Okay. Seeing no objections, Mr. Clerk will you please call for a Roll Call vote and the machines will be open.

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. 924.

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

THE CHAIR:

The bill has been passed. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Also, on page 15, Calendar 138, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 798. AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE OR THE MOHEGAN TRIBE OF INDIANS OF CONNECTICUT.

THE CHAIR:

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Senator Gugliemo. Good afternoon.

SENATOR GUGLIEMO (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon. I move acceptance of the Committee's Joint favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

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

SENATOR GUGLIEMO (35TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Basically, it was an oversight in the beginning. The chief states attorney came up and testified in support and indicated that this was an oversight. It allows mutual aid agreement so that the tribal police can assist neighboring towns the way any other true police forces can cooperate. I think it's really important because of where the -- you know in this age of terrorism and where the tribal police are located next to the sub base. It's something that should be taken care of and this bill does that.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will anybody remark further on this?

SENATOR GUGLIEMO (35TH):

If not, Madam President, I request this be moved to the Consent Calendar.

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THE CHAIR:

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

THE CLERK:

Page 15. Calendar 139. Substitute for Senate Bill
No. 846. AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY OFFICER
LICENSES.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Larson.

SENATOR LARSON (3RD):

Thank you, Madam President. 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 LARSON (3RD):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This bill aims to provide security guards with notice from DESPP that their license will expire within 90 days. This bill will align the security guard licensing renewals with what is currently in practice for gun licenses.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark? Will you remark further? Seeing not, Senator Larson.

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Senate

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SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

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 (25TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

It's been taken off and marked PT.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

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

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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 20th 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**

**PUBLIC
SAFETY AND
SECURITY
PART 1
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**2017
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have Representative Eric Berthel, is he available? No? All right, then I'll switch over to the public list then. Gil DelValle. Is Gil here? D-E-L-V-A-L-L-E? No? Okay, I'll go one more down the public list. Laura and I'm gonna have trouble with this, Azevedo dash Rasuk, is she available? No?

How about Chief Jeff Hotsky and Chief Pittman, are they here? Thank you, gentlemen.

JEFF HOTSKY: Good afternoon Representatives Verrengia, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Sredzinski. I hope I did that justice. And the honorable members of the Public Safety -- pardon me? Thank you. And the honorable members of the Public Safety Committee.

My name is Jeffrey Hotsky, I'm the Chief of the Mohegan Tribal Police Department. With me today is William Pittman, he's the Chief of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police Department.

We're here to testify in support of Senate Bill 798, AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND THE MASANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE OR THE MOHEGAN TRIBE OF INDIANS OF CONNECTICUT.

This bill would remove an obstacle preventing the tribal police forces from joining other police departments in mutual aid agreements.

This bill is supported by Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane, New London County Attorney Michael Regan, along with the municipal departments of Eastern Connecticut.

The Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribe of police officers are all certified by the Connecticut Police Officer Standards of Training Council POST under the identical standards used to certify all municipal police officers in the state of Connecticut.

Unfortunately, today our society is susceptible to sudden flare-ups of violent behavior by person or persons within the communities which might require a timely response not only by the police department of that jurisdiction but officers from neighboring communities under the auspices of mutual aid agreements to prevent or limit the loss of life during an emergency.

Our two reservations visited daily by large numbers of visitors are unfortunately unable to participate in these mutual aid agreements due to the present language contained in the statutes.

The Law Enforcement Council of Eastern Connecticut and its member police agencies have drafted a new mutual aid agreement. We urge the committee to approve the proposed amendment to CGS 7-277A which would allow the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police Departments to participate in mutual aid agreements with the other municipal police agencies.

Thank you very much for your time.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO (35TH): Yes, Senator Cassano?

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): Sure, I'll just be brief. I was astounded to see that you didn't have the ability to be part of a process.

I've had the opportunity to serve on Safe Call now for several years first that we do this nationally and tribes across the nation are a part of the same process. To be exclusionary is really an affront to the public, particularly the large numbers that you have there in the CRCOG region, we've been doing this for 20 years, cross-training, it has been effective.

I know it will be effective in the area, I know the

district, it's about time. I think this bill will pass. It should pass. Welcome to cross training.

JEFFREY HOTSKY: Thank you very much. Our paramedics currently serve New London County and the fire department has been functioning in the beginning under mutual aid agreement with over five departments.

SENATOR CASSANO (4TH): I hope it was an oversight but I don't think it was.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO (35TH): Representative.

REP. SKULCZYCK (45TH): Thank you, Senator and Jeff, I haven't seen you in a long time. Correction since Captain Ditner[phonetic -04:00:03] as well. New London PD. John Dukas (phonetic) says hi.

I just wanna say this is a nice addition to the region and police force and obviously having this extra services being provided as you're talking about and sharing is -- makes sense, right?

JEFFREY HOTSKY: It does.

REP. SKULCZYCK (45TH): It's been a long time so kudos to your efforts going along.

JEFFREY HOTSKY: Thank you very much.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO (35TH): Representative Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH): I really hadn't thought this out but -- and I don't like to ask hypothetical questions but as you know, there's talk about the casinos possibly expanding their gaming in various sites off tribal reservations have been mentioned and I was wondering if you gave any thought to what, if any, consequences this bill in front of us may or may not have. If that would come to fruition.

JEFFREY HOTSKY: Actually, no, this bill is strictly

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February 16, 2017

cmw

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY 11:00 A.M.
COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

meant for our eastern region and towns that we serve. I mean we know that the police is very close but as a -- we interact with every police department in eastern Connecticut as it is.

And what had happened was the Law Enforcement Council which represents all the departments, they had an older agreement that was very dated.

In the last couple of years and since we've been functioning under our MOA, they have redrafted a new one. That's when this came to light. In conjunction with the, just the fact that the tribes weren't covered under the word municipality.

In conjunction with the training that we provide to all our employees, both tribal and casino, we do active shooter, the police departments do, and when we train that, we tell everybody that don't be surprised if God forbid, an incident happens and there's a police response. When you look around, you're gonna see officers in uniforms from all over the area responding.

And just something needed to be done to make that really happen in statutory wise.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH): Thank you.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO (35TH): Any other questions from committee members? If not, thank you for waiting and thank you for your testimony.

JEFFREY HOTSKY: Thank you very much.

JAY SARGENT: Hello, good afternoon to all the distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee here today.

HB6265

For the record, my name is Jay Sargent. I'm president of the Connecticut Association of Pawnbrokers. I'm here today with Chad LaPlante, our

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Statement on

S.B. No. 798

**AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND THE
MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE OR THE MOHEGAN TRIBE OF INDIANS OF CONNECTICUT**

SUPPORT

February 16, 2017

By Chief of Police Jeffrey Hotsky

Mohegan Tribal Police Department

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Rep. Verrengia, Senator Guglielmo, Rep. Sredzinski and the honorable members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Jeffrey Hotsky and I am the Chief of the Mohegan Tribal Police Department.

I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 798: AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE OR MOHEGAN TRIBE OF INDIANS OF CONNECTICUT. This bill would remove an obstacle preventing the Tribal Police Forces from joining other Police Departments in Mutual Aid agreements. This bill is supported by Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane, New London County State's Attorney, Michael Regan, along with the Municipal Police Departments of Eastern Connecticut.

The Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police Officers are all certified by CT Police Officer Standards and Training (CPOST) under the identical standards used to certify all Municipal Police Officers in the State of Connecticut. Unfortunately, today, our society is susceptible to sudden flare ups of violent behavior by a person or persons within our communities which might require timely response by not only the Police Department in the jurisdiction, but officers from neighboring communities under the auspices of Mutual Aid Agreements to prevent or limit the loss of life during an emergency. Our two Reservations, visited daily by large numbers of visitors, are unfortunately unable to participate in these Mutual Aid Agreements due to the present language contained in statutes. (C.G.S. §§ 7-294a to 7-294e).

The Law Enforcement Council of Eastern CT (LECEC) and its member Police Agencies have drafted a new Mutual Aid Agreement. We urge the Committee to approve the proposed amendment to C.G.S. § 7-277a, which would allow the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police Departments to participate in the Mutual Aid Agreements with the Municipal Police Agencies.

Thank you for your time.