

## Legislative History for Connecticut Act

### PA 18-21

HB5230

House	2113-2120	8
Senate	2549-2561, 2621-2623	16

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**24**

The Connecticut General Assembly did not transcribe February 27, 2018 Joint Committee Public Hearing on Veterans' Affairs. Legislative history for Public Act 18-21 consists of House and Senate transcripts only.

Transcripts from the Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings  
Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing – Not Transcribed

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House

Proceedings

2018

Vol. 61

Part 6

1928-2382

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April 24, 2018

Total number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	149
Those voting Nay	0
Absent not Voting	1

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

Bill is passed (Gavel). Mr. Clerk, Calendar  
59.

CLERK:

On page 8, Calendar 59, Substitute House Bill  
No. 5230, AN ACT HONORING CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD  
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS. Favorable report of the  
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

The distinguished chair of the Veterans'  
Affairs Committee, Representative Hennessy.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

Question is on acceptance and passage. Will

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you explain the bill please, sir?

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker what this bill does is official recognize the heroic deeds of the two National Guard Medal of Honor recipients. The Medal of Honor is the highest award, valor, in action against an enemy force, which can be bestowed upon an individual. Mr. Speaker, the National Guard has two major training facilities, one is in Windsor Locks and the other one's in Niantic. Mr. Speaker, the National Guard also has two Medal of Honor recipients and they are Lee Hartell and Robert Burton Nett. What this bill will do is officially name these two training facilities Hartell Camp -- Camp Hartell is already named but this will -- that was through executive order and this will set it in statute, and we will change the name to Camp Nett at Niantic. This is a military agency bill supported by Veterans throughout the state. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on this bill? Representative Cheeseman.

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REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The clerk has an amendment. It's LCO No. 3750. Would you please ask the clerk to call it and I'd be allowed to summarize?

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

Clerk is in possession of LCO No. 3750, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A", Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House "A", LCO No. 3750 offered by Representative Cheeseman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

The gentlewoman asked to leave the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? I'm hearing none. Representative Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The change with the existing legislation would strike Nett at Niantic and replace it with Camp Niantic.Nett -- hyphen Nett.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

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[Laughing] Dot Nett that would be --

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Dot Nett -- I know.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

That would be a URL. Okay.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Exactly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

[Laughing]

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Camp Niantic-Nett, and I move adoption of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

Question is on adoption. Will you remark, ma'am?

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Yes, please. In 2010, the legislature and Governor Rell signed into law Public Act 10-69. To refresh the memories of some who may not know, prior to that date, the camp in Niantic changed its name each time there was a new governor, so we had Camp

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Dempsey, Camp Rowland, Camp Rell. It was decided that this was both expensive and confusing as National Guard members would train there and then meet after -- Oh, where did you train? Camp Rowland, Camp Rell, Camp O'Neill. There was no continuity, so to provide that continuity and to save dollars, Public Act 10-69 indicated that the camp -- National Guard Camp in Niantic would be renamed Camp Niantic in perpetuity. Flashforward to last year and this year when the proposal was made to rename it Camp-Nett. My constituents in East Lyme, my members of the VFW, the American Legion were taken back by this. As far as they were concerned, the camp had been named in 2010 in perpetuity, and I can explain to them as long as I may that this legislature says things and does things and laws are passed but nothing is forever and certainly, not the name of the camp. It is as you enter the camp the first building you see is in fact Camp-Nett. It's very prominent and my constituents felt this provided enough honor for the very, very esteemed Colonel, and I go back to what

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the legislation said that this was in fact names in perpetuity.

Surely, one of the issues the citizens of our state have with us and with what goes on that we make a commitment to them and then we do not live up to that commitment, so I understand their misgivings. On the other hand, I know the value and the honor of Colonel Nett. I know that throughout the rest of the state and the National Guard members there would very much like to see him honored. For that reason, I am going to bow to their request. I am going to explain to my constituents. I thank you for letting me make the case, and Mr. Speaker, I'd like to withdraw my amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

The gentlewoman has asked to leave the Chamber to withdraw her amendment. Is there objection? I'm hearing none. The amendment is withdrawn. Will you remark further on the bill? Representative Storms.

REP. STORMS (60TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this bill. Camp Hartell has been a significant base in



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the town of Windsor Locks. I think it's fitting and appropriate that we honor our two Medal of Honor winners by naming our military installations after these very distinguished Army National Guard people, and I would ask the Chamber to support this bill.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

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

CLERK:

[Bell] 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 PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

Have all the members voted? If all the members have voted, so the machine will be locked, and the clerk will take a tally, and the clerk will announce the tally.

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CLERK:

House Bill 5230

Total number Voting	149
Necessary for Passage	75
Those voting Yea	121
Those voting Nay	28
Absent not Voting	1

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

The bill is passed (Gavel). For an  
announcement, Representative McCarthy Vahey from  
Fairfield.

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purposes of an  
introduction.

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE GODFREY (110TH):

For an introduction, ma'am, please proceed.

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY (133RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, so with me today from  
Fairfield, constituents of mine who are wonderful  
advocates are Tom Griffin and his dog, Sterling, and  
Steve Kennedy who is here today on behalf of our  
Veterans and working very hard on Senate Bill 284,

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THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you  
remark further? Senator Flexer. Oh! Maybe not.  
Senator Fonfara.

SENATOR FONFARA (1ST):

Thank you, Madam President. Unless there's  
objection, I would move that this bill be placed on  
the Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir. At this time  
-- Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On page 29, Calendar 427, substitute for House Bill  
No. 5230 - AN ACT HONORING CONNECTICUT NATIONAL  
GUARD MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good morning, Madam President. Madam President, I  
move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's  
favorable report and passage of the bill in  
concurrence with the House.

THE CHAIR:

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The motion is on acceptance and passage in concurrence. Will you remark, ma'am?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, the bill before us would rename the Connecticut Army National Guard facility in East Lyme, Connecticut, after Connecticut Army National Guard Colonel Robert B. Nett who was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during World War II. The proposal that's before us represents a compromise. This is an issue that the Veterans Affairs Committee has been working on for quite some time and Senator Martin and I were pleased to work on this initiative with our counterparts in the House of Representatives, and I'm hopeful that the Chamber will consider supporting this measure to give Colonel Nett the recognition that he truly deserves. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Madam President, I rise to support this and it is something that has been on the Veterans Committee's plate for four more years and I'm happy to say that this is a great compromise and I think a lot of people within the state are going to be very pleased with this. So, I urge adoption.

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Thank you. Senator Guglielmo.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO (35TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I had the great privilege of meeting Colonel on a committee that I was on. And I believe that he's the only -- I was a Connecticut National Guard member myself. I believe he was the only member of the Guard to receive the Medal of Honor. I mean, others from Connecticut -- That's not right?

THE CHAIR:

Huh uh. No, sir.

SENATOR GUGLIELMO (35TH):

Yeah, and I stand corrected. But anyway, he -- I believe he fought in all -- in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, so a guy that's had great service to this country. I did meet him. He was a humble man and showed great courage and I'm pleased that we're moving ahead with his. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Senator Guglielmo. Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN (24TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I stand in firm support of the bill before us and I'm thankful to the leadership of the Veterans Affairs Committee for honoring First Lieutenant Lee R. Hartell of Danbury. We have three Medal of Honor recipients from the

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City of Danbury and we're very honored to have this special honor for First Lieutenant Hartell. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Senator -- I'm sorry. Senator -- Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good afternoon, Madam Chair. Thank you --

THE CHAIR:

No. It's good morning, ma'am -- sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Oh, I'm sorry.

THE CHAIR:

There you go.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Good afternoon. I rise for a comment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Some years ago, in a move to be economical, the name of this

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camp changed from honoring the governor of each state to Camp Niantic in an effort to not have to change the signs on the highways and all of that and to keep it clear. And at the time, there was a large renovation planned for Camp Niantic and there was about \$27 million dollars put into that to make it a regional National Guard training camp along the East Coast. And it's really done a wonderful job there. And Colonel Nett was honored in a new hall there. Nett Hall has served a number of activities throughout the years there. So, it's been a tradition to have the Medal of Honor winner be the name of the post. And this compromise to include Niantic and the name Colonel Nett is duly recognized and the location is duly recognized and we are in full support of this change. And I thank you for the opportunity to comment, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Formica. Senator Martin.

SENATOR MARTIN (31ST):

Madam President, just one last comment. What will happen after this, to memorialize this enactment of this bill into law, the military department plans on conducting celebrations on Medal of Honor Day, March 25, 2019, the proposed effective date of this bill? As this will be the significance of our state's military and veteran community, the military department will invite our Commander in Chief, constitutional officers, each member of the General Assembly, local elected officials and various veteran service organizations to attend the dedication ceremonies. This is an important bill, not only for the Connecticut Military Department,



but for the state and our nation. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Martin. Senator Martin, I do want to ask if you could do previous elected officials also at that time? If you can add it at some point. Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Just a couple of questions through you to the proponent of the bill?

Madam President

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

We have up in Windsor Locks, Camp Hartell. As long as I've been a Senator, we've noted of Camp Hartell. And I just need clarification. The portion of this bill that has to do with Camp Hartell, is it merely putting into statute what we've always had as far as Camp Hartell and Windsor Locks? Or does this refer to some other Camp Hartell?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

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Through you, Madam President. The proposal before us is the same facility that the good Senator describes that would be named and has been named after First Lieutenant Lee R. Hartell.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. So, I'm just wandering why this is being put into bill if it's always been named Camp Hartell? I just don't know the purpose.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Through you, Madam President. I think this is just clarifying to ensure that Camp Hartell will continue to be named Camp Hartell. And the overall purpose of the bill is to honor the two members of the Connecticut National Guard who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I thank the proponent of the bill for that clarification. I'm happy to support it.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill?  
Will you remark further on the bill? Senator  
Flexer?

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I would move that we place this bill on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, ma'am. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 38, Calendar 501, House Bill No. 5515 - AN ACT  
CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF A ZONING COMMISSION TO  
REGULATE THE BRIGHTNESS AND ILLUMINATION OF  
ADVERTISING SIGNS AND BILLBOARDS.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle, good morning, ma'am -- sir.

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. This piece of legislation which was overwhelmingly approved by the Judiciary Committee basically provides -- it authorizes municipalities to regulate the brightness and illumination of advertising signs and billboards. Basically, it's a situation where we are permitting the municipalities to regulate such brightness and illumination. I urge the Chamber to approve this bill. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill?  
Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much. I stand in support of this as well. It's my understanding that there's a particular location in the City of New Haven. There's a facility where there's folks with intellectual disabilities. They are disproportionately affected by these light signs. Apparently, it attempts to try to change this through -- local planning and zoning has not been successful. But there was not only testimony from folks down in that neck of woods, but by an advocate for the folks with intellectual disabilities and it's my understanding that indeed, as an objective matter, folks that have those issues are

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disproportionately affected by things like these bright-lit signs. And so this is just gonna help our the qualify of life for an awful lot of folks down in -- it's called the Elm City, New Haven? The Elm City. So I'm happy to support it. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I have a question for the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Senator, through you, Madam President, would this apply to every zoning commission in every city and town in the state?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Through you, Madam President. The answer is yes. Basically,

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this is a statute or basically the state authorizes the zoning commissions to do certain things, and we're simply adding -- like in terms of the height and weight of structures. And in this situation, we're just adding in specificity regarding signs and billboards. So it gives authority that the town may regulate the brightness and illumination. The towns previously in this bill -- previously had authority over advertising signs and billboards and apparently in the City of New Haven an issue arose regarding brightness and illumination that the -- it appears the city tried to regulate it. There were challenges to it. So this would clarify existing authority, is how I would interpret it.

Through you -- Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Thank you, Senator, for that answer. Reading through this, I'm not finding any implication if other communities outside of New Haven may have regulations that already apply. Would these supersede those regulations or would this just give each community the opportunity to provide regulations for their community?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):

Basically, I think this statute, what we're doing is we're expanding the statutes that already -- the state gives municipalities authority to regulate zoning in all sorts of different matters. And in this case, we're just expanding the author -- I would say we're expanding and clarifying the authority of our municipalities over their ability to regulate signs and billboards. It seems to me that brightness and illumination should have been logically been able to regulate it. The issue arose here which was not -- the interpretation of the statute was not -- did not enable the City of New Haven to do such regulations. Therefore, yes, this is an expansion, but it almost a clarification. So all towns can do this and of course how towns decide to enforce and to what extent is up to the communities.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I thank the good Senator and Chairman for his answer.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Senator Min -- oh! I guess not. Senator Miner, you walked -- you stepped up at the wrong time. Okay. At this

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time, will you remark further? Will you remark further? Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Without objection, I move this bill to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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

CLERK:

Page 46, Calendar 545, substitute for House Bill No. 5041 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF JUVENILE SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO THE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):

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

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and adoption. Will you remark?

SENATOR DOYLE (9TH):



Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	2
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

(Clears throat) I'm sorry. The bill passes.

(Gavel) Will you remark further -- I mean -- I'm sorry. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would the Clerk please call the items on the Consent Calendar, followed by a vote on the Consent Calendar, and then followed by an immediate Democratic caucus?

THE CHAIR:

For your information, the amendment is on its way.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for the Consent Calendar and please call all the bills on the Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

Page 2, Calendar 74, Senate Bill 175; page 11, Calendar 233, Senate Bill 448; page 12, Calendar

243, Senate Bill 184; page 14, Calendar 274, House Bill 5184; page 17, Calendar 30, House Bill 5255; page 18, Calendar 311, House Bill 5205; page 21, Calendar 336, Senate Bill 504; page 23, Calendar 362, Senate Bill 467; page 25, Calendar 377, House Bill 5507; page 26, Calendar 381, House Bill 5245; page 27, Calendar 388, Senate Bill 417; page 29, Calendar 426, House Bill 5211; page 29, Calendar 427, House Bill 5230; page 29, Calendar 425, House Bill 5148; page 30, Calendar 428, House Bill 5252; page 31, Calendar 434, House Bill 5442; page 36, Calendar 492, House Bill 5579; page 37, Calendar 493, House Bill 5429; page 38, Calendar 501, House Bill 5515; page 39, Calendar 504, House Bill 5433; page 41, Calendar 515, House Bill 5219; page 43, Calendar 524, House Bill 5384; page 44, Calendar 538, House Bill 5574; page 46, Calendar 545, House Bill 5041; page 50, Calendar 165, Senate Bill 390; page 51, Calendar 238, Senate Bill 493.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine is opened.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is open now. Please cast your vote. Senator Martin. Senator Martin.

If all members have voted. All members have voted.  
The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you  
call a tally?

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1,

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

(Gavel) The Consent Calendar has now been adopted.  
We still -- Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move  
all items that require further action to the House  
of Representatives be immediately transmitted.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And again, we're gonna  
have a very, very brief Senate Democratic caucus on  
the amendment for the next bill and we'd ask that  
all members come into the caucus room very quickly  
so we can get back out on the floor. And I'd yield  
to Senator Witkos.

THE CHAIR: