



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS' STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO RAISED BILL No. 330 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT EMPLOYEES AND WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS

The Office of State Ethics ("OSE") opposes passage of Raised Bill No. 330 in its current form, and respectfully requests that the following comments be considered. The primary purpose of this bill is to ensure that student employees at public institutions of higher education do not leave Connecticut to work outside this state because they are classified as state employees and subject to the post-state employment rules set forth in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials ("Code of Ethics"). Officials at Connecticut institutions of higher education are concerned that the application of the Code of Ethics to students who are employed by state institutions imposes excessive restrictions on such students' post-graduate job recruitment and precludes them from pursuing incentives to remain in Connecticut upon graduation from college or graduate school. Although the OSE appreciates the policy goals behind the proposed bill, the current language is too broad in its reach. The language in its current form essentially exempts all students at public institutions of higher education from the jurisdiction of the Code of Ethics when such students are engaged in state employment associated with the institution which they attend as students. The OSE opposes any broad or wholesale exemption of a group or class of individuals from the jurisdiction of the Codes of Ethics, as such an approach ultimately leads to the weakening of the law and its effectiveness. The OSE strongly believes that the proponents of the bill can achieve their policy goals with a narrow exception for students. A specific exception for recruitment purposes could achieve the same goals without diluting the current reach of the Code of Ethics.

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