

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5331

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILDREN'S REPORT CARD.

Vote Date: 3/15/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would eliminate the requirement that the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children electronically transmit the Children's Report Card to certain entities, and to specify the membership of the leadership committee with which said committee shall consult.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

The Department of Children and Families:

The Department of Children and Families submitted testimony and testified in favor of this bill. DCF is happy to participate in the Children's Report Card since the data produced has allowed all three branches of government to measure progress and address the contributing factors. Also, the Department will continue to provide the Committee with data to perform its important oversight function of DCF.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Richard Porth, CEO, United Way of Connecticut:

The United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 submitted testimony in support of the changes to the Report Card. In addition, the CEO asked for consideration for inclusion among the nonprofits participating on the Report Card's Leadership Committee.

Lauren Ruth, Advocacy Director, Connecticut Voices for Children:

Testimony was submitted by the advocacy director in support of this bill. Connecticut Voices for Children is already a part of the Report Card Leadership Committee and understands how important this tool is when making decisions regarding the children in Connecticut. The organization does have a problem with line 19 of LCO 1436, which removes geography from the list of statutorily mandated disaggregation variables. Lauren Ruth believes that Connecticut is a state with strong municipal control, drastic differences in municipal policies, numerous differences in the cultures represented within municipalities, and gaping disparities in municipal resources. If this variable is removed, then the impact of compounded influences (such as socioeconomic status, racial segregation, proximity to schools and health centers, etc.) on children and families would not be as accurately represented. Connecticut Voices for Children asks for the Committee to consider whether using a mapping tool could enable the Children's Report Card to report on geographic data, or whether the Report Card Committee can link a spreadsheet of geographic data to its website for interested citizens.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Mikhela Hull

Date: 3/19/18