

Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-450

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER SERVICES.

Vote Date: 3/26/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/16/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development

REASONS FOR BILL:

Certain collective bargaining agreements bar a municipality's ability to utilize volunteers. This bill would eliminate the barriers of entry for volunteers to perform certain public services.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language makes a technical revision which clarifies the intentions of this legislation.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Emergency Management Association (CEMA): CEMA supports this bill. SB 450 would encourage volunteering and emergency preparedness within the community.

Donna Hamzy, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM): CCM supports this bill. Ensuring municipalities are not forced to bargain away their ability to hire volunteers will help local governments continue to provide local services in a cost effective and efficient manner.

House Republican Office (HRO): HRO supports this bill. This proposal stems from conversations that occurred during the crux of last year's budget debate.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Stephen Anderson, CSEA SEIU Local 2001: SEIU local 2001 opposes this bill. This bill would unnecessarily limit collective bargaining. Stephen Anderson suggested that this bill could allow volunteerism to be used as a tool to undermine the wages and benefits of municipal employees.

Lori J. Pelletier, AFL-CIO: AFL-CIO opposes this bill. They state that the use of volunteers open the door to liabilities. Volunteers are not protected by laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment.

Reported by: Colin Carroll

Date: 4/4/18