

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5335

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALIGNMENT OF THE COORDINATED STATE-

Title: WIDE READING PLAN WITH THE STATE'S TWO-GENERATIONAL INITIATIVE.

Vote Date: 3/14/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/8/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to align the coordinated state-wide reading plan for students in kindergarten to grade three with the state's two-generational initiative.

Under the bill, (1) the state reading plan must include the alignment of reading instruction with the two-generational initiative, and (2) the two-generational plan may, within available appropriations, consider the alignment of state and local systems around the state-wide reading plan for student in kindergarten to grade three.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, State Department of Education:](#)

Commissioner Wentzell testified on behalf of the State Department of Education stating support for H.B. 5335, but cautioned that without appropriate funding the project will be untenable. Commissioner Wentzell stated that the inclusion of parents will help accelerate the Department's "parent engagement efforts" and give families the "skills needed to increase their children's reading abilities."

[David Wilkinson, Commissioner, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood:](#)

Commissioner Wilkinson testified on behalf of The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood stating support for H.B. 5335 because it allows for a two generation approach to the state-wide reading initiative. He stated that research shows that the literacy level of a mother correlates to the reading success of her child; by using a two generation approach to improving family literacy, students will do better in school and the parent will be more

economically self-sufficient. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that “linking literacy to the Connecticut 2Gen” will improve “opportunities to attract private and federal resources” to this effort.

Steven Hernandez, Esq., Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors:

Steven Hernandez testified on behalf of the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors stating support for H.B. 5335 because by “linking literacy to the 2Gen initiative” there will be more opportunity to “attract private and national resources and technical support” for literacy work. Mr. Hernandez also stated that H.B. 5335 will also create a continuum of family-centered literacy work with the pre-K EvenStart program leading to “improved outcomes for children and their families.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ray Rossomando, Director of Policy, Research and Government Relations, Connecticut Education Association:

Ray Rossomando testified on behalf of CEA in support of HB 5335 because it addresses the importance of improving the literacy of the entire family while increasing the child’s success in school.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Tamara Morris

Date: March 26, 2018