

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5339

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Vote Date: 3/14/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/8/2018

File No.: 128

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB 5339 would allow the Department of Education to conduct a study on public schools in the state and report back to the Education Committee.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

James J. Finley, Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding:

Finley testified on behalf of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding in favor of HB 5339. He urged the Education Committee and the General Assembly to authorize and fund an Education Adequacy Cost Study under the supervision of a Connecticut Achievement and Resource Equity in Schools Commission. He stated that such study is necessary to develop a new, rational and constitutional education finance system in Connecticut. He also made the argument that such study would help to identify and quantify the resource needs of all school districts as well as the resources needed by regular and special needs students. Lastly, in order for this study to be conducted, Finley asked the Education Committee to push back the reporting deadline of the Connecticut Achievement Resource Equity in Schools Commission from April 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019.

Arjun Ramamurti, Brandon Levin, and Sesenu Woldemariam, Education Adequacy Project Clinic of Yale Law School:

Levin Brandon testified on behalf of the Education Adequacy Project Clinic of Yale Law School in support of House Bill 5339. He urged the Education Committee and the General Assembly to authorize and fund an Education Adequacy Cost Study to be conducted with the oversight of a Connecticut Achievement and Resource Equity in Schools Commission. He stipulated that such study is necessary to determine the nature of the necessary resources to

educate the state's students and to provide an alternative to the arbitrary allocation of resources that has so far impeded efforts to reform education funding. He asserted that such a study could be conducted on the basis of two different methods: The Successful School district method or the Professional Judgment method, both in tandem. However, as only six of the sixteen members of the Connecticut Achievement and Resource Equity in Schools Commission have been named, he asked the Committee to consider calling upon the Senate president pro tempore, the Senate Republican president pro tempore, the deputy Senate Republican pro tempore, the Speaker of the House, the House and Senate majority leaders and the House minority leader "to (1) fill the remaining open positions on the Commission, (2) fund the commission for the completion of a cost study over the next ten months; and (3) push back the reporting deadline to April 1, 2019".

Reported by: Adeline Dubout

Date: April 3, 2018