

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-358

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION ISSUES.

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 reason for this bill is to require the State Department of Education to conduct a study relating to education issues in the state and report back to the Education Committee.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, State Department of Education

Commissioner Wentzell shared in her testimony that the State Department of Education is, “not in the position to take on this type of additional work without additional resources.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

No support was offered to the bill in its existing form.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Several groups took the opportunity to express how they thought the bill could be improved.

Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director for the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) testified that CAPSS views this bill as “an opportunity to bring our public schools into the twenty-first century, and ensure that our graduates will be prepared for college and career.” This would be accomplished by amending the bill to include measures to support mastery-based and personalized learning.

James J. Finley of CT Coalition For Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF) submitted testimony asking that the bill be amended to authorize and fund an Education Adequacy Cost Study under the auspices of a resourced, staffed and fully-rostered Connecticut Achievement and Resource Equity in Schools (CARES) Commission [PA 17-2, June SS, Sec. 71]. His testimony also requested that the reporting deadline of the Cares Commission be pushed back from April 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019.

Arjun Ramamurti, Brandon Levin, and Sensenu Woldermariam, Education Adequacy Project Clinic, Yale Law School submitted testimony that supported the proposal made by CCJEF and also explained why they believe an Education Adequacy Cost Study is needed.

Reported by: Amy L. Orschel

Date: March 26, 2018