

Education Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-457

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF PATHWAYS IN EXISTING
ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS TO ASSIST PERSONS

Title: WITH MASTER'S DEGREES IN SOCIAL WORK TO BECOME TEACHERS.

Vote Date: 3/23/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/14/2018

File No.: 299

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REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 457 requires Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) to collaborate with providers of existing alternate route to certification (ARC) programs to incorporate paths to teacher certification in their programs for those who hold a master's degree from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, for those educated outside the United States or its territories, an educational program the council deems equivalent.

Substitute Language:

The substitute language for SB 457 eliminates the original bill, which created an ARC program for school social workers, and replaced with the ARC for social workers to become teachers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dinanna Wentzell, Commissioner of Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE):

Commissioner Wentzell testified on behalf of Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) on SB 457. The Commissioner does not believe this bills is necessary. She stated that there is a shortage of school social workers in the state; and planned preparation and / or certification program is not required to be certified as a school social worker. She clarified that any individual with a master's degree in social work from a School of Social Work, who is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, may be eligible for certification as a school social worker.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION

None expressed.

Reported by: Kay O. Christopher

Date: April 5, 2018