

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7089

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING AND EXPANSION OF CERTAIN

Title: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

Vote Date: 2/28/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and Bonding

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To provide funding for advanced manufacturing certificate programs in public institutions of higher education in order to build upon Connecticut's workforce, thus strengthening the state's economy. The manufacturing industry in our state continues to grow, and this bill will allow the necessary expansion of advanced manufacturing certificate programs that will cut down on the industry's several thousand available positions.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Alexandra Beaudoin, Director of Government Relations, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities](#): Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) supports the funding for advanced manufacturing and has taken steps within their own institution to expand their certificate programs. CSCU recognizes "that Connecticut's manufacturing industry is expected to need between 25,000 and 35,000 new workers in the manufacturing field in the next decade." CSCU has recently doubled their enrollment in manufacturing programs. In order to meet the demands of their increasing admissions in such programs, as well as the demand of Connecticut's workforce, CSCU expanded their number of advanced manufacturing certificate programs from four to eight. The establishment is supportive and welcoming of a discussion to determine the best possible use of additional funding.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Elizabeth Fraser, Policy Director, Connecticut Association for Human Services](#):

Elizabeth Fraser testified in support of HB-7089, stating that it is an essential step towards

building Connecticut's growing workforce. "A Connecticut Business and Industry 2017 Survey of Connecticut manufacturing Workforce Needs indicates that there were about 13,000 manufacturing job openings at the end of 2018." Ms. Fraser acknowledges the importance of such jobs; however we must put the necessary training in place in order to fill the positions in our state's manufacturing industry. Ms. Fraser supports this bill and believes that it is what Connecticut needs to bolster our manufacturing workforce.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed for Raised Bill No. 7089

Reported by: Beatrice O'Neil

Date: 03/01/2019