

# Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7113

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION ISSUES.

**Vote Date:** 3/25/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/22/2019

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Education Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This is a general study for the State Department of Education to conduct on issues related to public schools. This is a placeholder bill.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, State Department of Education (SDE):**

SDE understands these bills are placeholders for more detailed proposals. SDE cannot take on additional work to conduct a study without additional resources to conduct said study.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Special Education Equity for Kids in Connecticut (SEEK-CT):**

SEEK-CT states that investing in special education students today will save future state costs on welfare programs. Local school districts need to find more funding streams for special education than the current two available; ECS grants and Connecticut provided excess cost reimbursements. Teachers should not fear retaliation for speaking out in PPT meetings as outlined in the Rep. Currey's H.B. 6822. SEEK-CT asks that the Committee take a look into the achievement gap of students with disabilities because many of them have average to above average IQs, they just need more help than a non-disabled student. SEEK-CT has concerns about legislative initiatives to undermine Individualized Education Plans (IEP). SEEK-CT is opposed to any change in the burden of proof for disabled students. Districts have attempted to prevent Independent Educational Evaluations (IEE) and the State Department of Education's guidance has made IEEs less accessible, SEEK-CT seeks legislative action to fix this problem.

**Glenn Lungarini, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS):**  
CAS-CIAC supports this bill.

**Jeffrey C. Kitching, Chairman, Task Force to Study the Processing and Retention of Fingerprint Records and Criminal History Records for Educators:**

Chairman Kitching testifies on the results of his respective task force, a study of the processing and retention of fingerprint records. Chairman Kitching recommends conforming state statutes to federal requirements regarding finger printing and background checks for school teachers, required participation in background checks for non-government operators that work in schools, student teacher fingerprinting and background checks, discretionary fingerprinting and background checks for anyone who comes in direct contact with students, and name based criminal history checks for State Department of Education certification.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None.

**Reported by: Colin Carroll**

**Date: 3/27/2019**