

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7146

AN ACT CONCERNING INTIMIDATION ON ACCOUNT OF OCCUPATION AS A

Title: PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE.

Vote Date: 3/19/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/7/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, 105th Dist.

Rep. Themis Klarides, 114th Dist.

Rep. J.P. Sredzinski, 112th Dist.

Rep. Brenda L. Kupchick, 132nd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The goal of the bill is to prevent someone from being assaulted or intimidated because the person is a police officer, a firefighter, an advanced emergency medical technician, an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, a paramedic or a correction officer.

*****[Proposed Substitute language](#)*****

The substitute moves language in section 4 to correct a drafting error.***

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Themis Klarides, State Representative](#)

She testifies that this bill is similar to one that was passed out of committee with bipartisan support last year. Additionally, she references disturbing accounts of public safety employees

being targeted. Lastly, she states that we need to proudly stand behind the hero's this bill will protect.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria, State Representative

She testifies that this bill is similar to one that was passed out of committee with bipartisan support last year. Additionally, she references disturbing accounts of public safety employees being targeted. Lastly, she states that we need to proudly stand behind the hero's this bill will protect.

Kevin Dillon, Executive Director, Connecticut Airport Authority

The Connecticut Airport Authority employs many who could be subject to intimidation or harassment. He supports additional protections for those employees who may be victimized because of their employment.

Michael Loiz, Director of EMS & 911, Town of Stratford

He testifies that an assault on a healthcare worker is the most common source for a non-fatal injury or illness. He then states the staggering statistics involving healthcare workers; 20% of all workplace injuries happen to them, while they suffer from 50% of all assaults.

Derek Puorro, Chairman, Council 4 AFSCME

He testifies that this bill is needed; in 2016 the murder of police officers rose sharply. He then cites a professor of hate crime, stating that "police officers should be protected by hate crime statues." Lastly, he states that this bill would look to boost police officer morale.

Bob Shea, Police Officers Association of America.

He lists some statistics involving police officers sustaining injuries. He states that in 2015 more than 50,000 police officers were assaulted while working. He also states that firearm related deaths were the number one cause of police death in 2016, and a high percentage of these were ambush-style attacks.

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

They ask that Judicial Marshals be added to those occupations affected.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David McGuire, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut

He states that the American Civil Liberties Union of CT (ACLU-CT) supports ensuring fair public safety practices and opposed proposals that would undermine justice. He states that it an unnecessary distraction from efforts that could improve public safety. He testifies that

these public safety employees are hired to perform dangerous jobs. He then cites that crimes against police from 2014-2015 went down. He testifies that improving conditions for police and corrections officers in prisons would be a better venture, and improving the training public safety employees receive.

Reported by: Assistant Clerk Don Cretella

Date: 4/1/19