

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7226

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR
Title: EDUCATORS TO LIVE IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

Vote Date: 3/7/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2019

File No.: 151

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Housing Committee,

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.,

Rep. Jeff Currey, 11th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would establish a pilot program to provide incentives for teachers to live in certain municipalities to ensure teacher retention and to ensure schools as well as students are guaranteed a more equitable education.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language expands certain areas to alliance districts in Sec. 1(b)(c).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Jonathan A. Harris, Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy and Planning, Office of Policy and Management; supports the underlying intent of this bill, stating the need for additional funding to compensate additional staff and request the bill be held until the required funding and bonding is considered.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Subira Gordan, Executive Director, ConnCan; supports this bill, sharing that last session the legislature passed Senate Bill 455, aimed to increase the number of minority teachers in

state. It is stated that students benefit when they learn from teachers of color and the state legislature can add geographic and community commonality to improve student outcomes. It is recommended that the committee research other forms of teacher residency incentives such as, rental and down payment assistance.

The following submitted testimony in **support of HB 7226** expressing that teachers who live where they are employed are able to better relate to students in their classrooms. It is stated that this bill would incentivize teacher retention and address racial disparities and compensation, referencing the success of the Massachusetts model. It was suggested that increased wages and equitable and financial incentives should be put in place, as racial disparities and compensation within the high needs school districts are inequitable and are critical in building strong communities with their students as well as teachers living in the communities they teach:

Armin Thoms,

Alexandra Bauman, Member, Yale College Democrats,

Kennedy Bennett, Student, Yale University,

Lizzie Bjork, Member, Yale College Democrats,

Michael Blicher, Member, Yale College Democrats,

Ryan Brown, Resident of Danbury, Educators for Excellence of CT,

Zola Canady, Member, Yale College Democrats,

Liam Elkind, Student, Yale University,

Conrad French, Student, Yale University,

Alex Halberstam, Student, Yale University,

Nicole, Jefferson, Student, Yale University,

Tina M. Manus, PhD, General Education Department Head, Bullard-Havens Technical High School,

Gage Salicki, Teacher, Educators for Excellence of CT,

Sana Shah, Outreach Director, Educators for Excellence of CT,

Emmett Shell, Student, Yale University,

Henry Smith, Member, Yale College Democrats,

Alex Steckel, CT Resident,

Robert Sutton, Post Graduate Fellow, Yale University,

Paige Swanson, Member, Yale College Democrats,

Rob Vogelpohl, Teacher, Educators for Excellence of CT,

Timothy White, President, Yale College Democrats,

Grace Whittington, Student, New Haven,

Victoria Winter, Student, Yale University,

Clare Wu, Student, Yale University

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Zachary McKeown, Legislative Associate, CT Conference of Municipalities; opposes this bill, stating that there are over seventy-five property tax exemptions and municipalities cannot afford any others.

Reported by: Zoë Gluck

Date: 3/14/19